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Cabinet reshuffle expected

By SARAH HONG

The High Court rulings on the Bar-On "Affair" petitions, due tomorrow, and the verdict in the trial of former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman, a day later are intensifying expectations of a cabinet reshuffle in the near future.

The soaring political temperatures were unchecked by the fact that, in its response to the High Court, the government stated that Justice Minister Avraham Hanegbi would not be replaced.

While speculation is rife about senior cabinet positions, there is also renewed speculation about the two top diplomatic postings—in Washington and New York. Ambassador to the US Elhan Ben-Elissar is said to be interested in another, very senior position back home, while senior adviser to the prime minister David Bar-Ilan is again being mentioned as Israel's UN ambassador. Netanyahu's adviser Dore Gold is being touted as the leading candidate to replace Ben-Elissar.

In political circles close to the government, the feeling is that there will be political fallout no matter what the High Court rules on the Bar-On petitions before it.

Like his predecessors, Netanyahu is expected to make changes in the cabinet to be unavoidable, but that the government must keep up appearances so as not to give the impression that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is sacking Hanegbi.

If Ne'eman is cleared, this would give Netanyahu an easy way out of his political constraints.

Continued on Page 9



Celebrating freedom and independence

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein and his son, Eli Assaf, 7, mark the 10th anniversary of his being freed from Soviet prison on Yom Ha'atzmaut in 1987.

(Scoop 8)

Labor readies for Peres-Barak showdown

By SARAH HONG

The Labor Party is primed for a major confrontation at its convention today, unless party chairman Shimon Peres and his would-be successor, Ehud Barak, can defuse at the last minute the argument over the naming of Peres as party president, which not only threatens the convention but also the June 3 leadership primary.

Fervent contacts were under way throughout Independence Day, including a tete-a-tete between Peres and Barak, followed by a meeting of their second-in-command party Secretary-General Nissim Zivili (for Peres) and MK Avraham Shohat (for Barak).

Both conversations failed to resolve the dispute, however. Late last night, both camps were engaged in internal deliberations and the search for the magic verbal formula that would prevent an immediate showdown.

Barak fears that letting Peres be appointed as party president

would leave him with a claim on the actual Labor leadership and would in fact install Peres as co-leader. Peres, according to Barak, would then clash with the new chairman that is elected in June. Barak wants ironclad stipulations that the title of president is an honorary one, and also would like the appointment put off till the September session of the convention.

Peres yesterday vehemently rejected both restrictions. He told his supporters that if he is not named president today, he does not want the position at all, and that it would be out of the question for him to accept a job that had no authority.

In his tense meeting with Barak, Peres reportedly also categorically turned down a proposal that he be appointed president today but that it be stipulated that his job description would only be fixed in September and that it would be binding.

This leaves the sides on a collision course. The Peres side has warned that if Peres is not named

president today, the entire convention and the political processes stemming from it would be stymied. The Barak side is threatening to adjourn the convention as soon as it opens today and to put it off until September. But if the convention is adjourned, warn Peres's backers, there will be no leadership primary.

Four candidates are in the running for the Labor leadership—Barak, seen as the front-runner, and MKs Yossi Beilin, Ephraim Sneh and Shlomo Ben-Ami.

Sneh took part in the Peres camp caucus in an attempt to prevent a total break-up of the convention, and then talked twice with Barak.

He has proposed that the sides agree that Peres would receive full honors while the new chairman would get full authority. Sneh's proposal had been the basis for the compromise formulations that Barak put to Peres and which Peres rejected as humiliating and dictatorial.

Continued on Page 9

Weizman disappointed by talks of progress

By DAVID RUDGE

President Ezer Weizman expressed disappointment yesterday over the ice-breaking talks between the state and the PLO, saying they did not produce any progress.

"We are not going to open up the channel and let the enemy flood in," Weizman said, referring to the talks last week in Washington.

A meeting between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Arafat is expected to follow the Washington meeting.

Weizman was interviewed on Channel 10's news program "The 11th Hour" after the first round of negotiations.

Continued on Page 9

4 Hizbullah gunmen killed in Lebanon

By DAVID RUDGE

At least four Hizbullah gunmen were killed in an abortive attempt to capture a South Lebanese Army outpost in the eastern sector of the security zone.

An SLA soldier suffered moderate wounds and an IDF soldier and three SLA troops were slightly hurt in the attack on the Soujeid position.

IAF warplanes twice struck Hizbullah positions in the area, and there were reports that all the Hizbullah fighters were killed.

The IDF said the attack on the Soujeid position was a pre-emptive strike against a Hizbullah base.

The attack began around 1 p.m. with a mortar assault by at least 100 Hizbullah fighters, who were repelled by IDF mortar fire.

Initially, the group announced that members of its fighting arm, the Islamic Resistance, had overrun the fortified post, raised Hizbullah's flag there, and killed or wounded all the defenders. The IDF commander in Lebanon, Brig-Gen. Eh Amitai, stressed that the attack had been repulsed by the SLA troops manning the position, with the assistance of the IDF.

IAF gunships pounded the area with a barrage of artillery fire and there were reports that IAF helicopter gunships also gave support in thwarting the assault and forcing the gunmen to retreat.

The terrorists did manage to plant a Hizbullah flag, but only near the base of the reinforced ramparts surrounding the post.

Amitai praised the determination and courage of the SLA soldiers in defending the post. The fact that four SLA soldiers were

wounded was proof that they had stuck to their guns and remained at their posts, he said.

He noted that the commander of the Hizbullah assault force and three other terrorists were among those killed and that their bodies had been left in the field when the rest of the Hizbullah gunmen retreated.

It was the second time recently that Hizbullah has abandoned the bodies of its own fighters. The previous incident occurred last Tuesday when two gunmen were killed in a clash with members of an IDF paratroop unit near Wadi Saluki in the central sector of the security zone.

Amitai told reporters in the North last night that the IDF and SLA soldiers were all wounded by shrapnel from Hizbullah mortar fire during the course of the exchanges.

Continued on Page 4

Computer TKOs Kasparov

It was a historic moment when a computer defeated a human chess champion. Kasparov, the world's top chess player, lost to the Deep Blue supercomputer in a match that was watched by millions of people.

"One hundred years from now, people will say this day was the beginning of the Information Age," said C.J. Tan, head of the Deep Blue team. "Historically for mankind, this is like landing on the moon or being the first human to climb Mt. Everest."

Kasparov and Big Blue split the first two games of the match, then played to draws in Games 3, 4 and 5.

Despite his loss, Kasparov takes home a loser's purse of \$400,000. IBM keeps its winner's share of \$700,000 and said it will put the money toward continued research.

Kasparov won the first match against Deep Blue in February 1996 by 4 points to 2. But after that defeat, IBM engineers retooled Big Blue, returning with a machine that was able to think twice as fast as its predecessor.

"Let's see: I was only off by a factor of four," Simon, who won the Nobel Prize in economics in 1978, told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. "That's better than the weatherman does, isn't it?"

After Kasparov resigned, he shrugged and bolted from the table, visibly upset.

The Deep Blue team will also get the \$100,000 Fredkin Prize, established 17 years ago at Carnegie Mellon University, to be given the first time a computer beat a world chess champion in a match.

Early work on computers and chess was done at Carnegie Mellon in the late 1950s, spurred by computer science professor Herbert Simon to predict in 1957 that within 10 years, a computer would beat the top human chess player.

Does the machine's victory signal that a computer has become smarter than men? Not according to author Pamela McCorduck, who has written on advanced computers.

"What does it mean to be smarter? Of course, [the computer] can calculate faster," she said. "When we have a computer chess champion, what we have is we have a computer that plays superb chess. Period. There is a myth we have that playing chess is somehow the key to human intelligence."

A friend of Kasparov's, Michael Hodarkovski, said this was the first time Kasparov has ever lost a chess match.

"A friend of Kasparov's, Michael Hodarkovski, said this was the first time Kasparov has ever lost a chess match."

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CHARLES BENDHEIM ז"ל

A genuine friend, a courageous spirit, a committed Jew, a passionate Zionist, a forthright philanthropist, and a dedicated humanitarian.

He taught us all that communal leadership need not be achieved at the expense of family and "mentchlechkeit."

Shlomo Riskin, Dean.

We mourn the passing of

CHARLES H. BENDHEIM

who inspired our work.

The Gimmel Foundation

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Israel College of Technology for Women MIDRESHET MORIAH

Extends its condolences to the Bendheim family and to Klal Yisrael on the passing of

CHARLES H. BENDHEIM ז"ל

A leading benefactor of Torah and education in our time.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

We deeply mourn the loss of our dear friend and *mehutan*

CHARLES BENDHEIM ז"ל

Our heartfelt sympathy to our daughter-in-law and sister-in-law **Keren B. Levine**, and to **Els** and the entire family.

Fray and Harold Levine
Cindy and Abe Steinberger
Shani and Charles Levine

We deeply mourn the passing of

CHARLES BENDHEIM ז"ל

and extend our sincerest condolences to the esteemed family.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים ולא תסיפו לדאוג עוד

The management and staff of **Chaim Cohen & Co., Certified Accountants**

Bernard and Margrethe Zimmer and Family together with **The European Committees for Shaare Zedek Medical Center, Jerusalem** deeply mourn the passing of

CHARLES H. BENDHEIM

We extend our sincere condolences to his beloved wife, **Els Bendheim-Salomon**, sister, **Gertrude Herlands Engelberg**, children, great-grandchildren and the entire family on their great loss

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

To the family of

CHARLES BENDHEIM

who dedicated his life to Israel, the Jewish People and acts of Tzedaka

we extend our deepest condolences.

The Board and Staff of Israel Policy Forum

ELGAR-MIGDAL INVESTMENTS LTD. mourns the loss of

CHARLES H. BENDHEIM ז"ל

Ne'eman Yerushalayim

Member of the Board of Directors for many years

Our sincere condolences to the entire family

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies mourns the loss of

CHARLES H. BENDHEIM ז"ל

a model of dedication to Jewish education and community and extends to the family the wish that they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

The passing of

JOHNNY FEINGOLD

is mourned by his family and friends.

With great sorrow we announce the untimely passing of our member

IVAN KATZ

beloved son, husband, brother and father of

Vered Katz Sam and Bernice Katz
Tal and Dana Debbie and Sharon

Mourners will assemble at "Moadon Asam" Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael on Tuesday, May 13, 1997 (6 Iyar, 5757), from 4:30 p.m. for the funeral at 5:15 p.m.

Belt Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael

With great sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved

POLA SCHONSTEIN

The funeral procession will leave tomorrow, Wednesday, May 14, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. from the house of the deceased, 17 Sprinzak Street, Holon, and the funeral will take place 11:45 a.m. at the Holon Cemetery.

Shivah at the home of the deceased.

Mourners:
Her son and daughter-in-law: **Danny and Maxine Szeftel**
Her sister and brother-in-law: **Sarah and Izy Milkis**
Her grandsons: **Shawn, Debby, Jonathan and Dylan**
Her nephews: **Rivka and Dalya**

With great sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father and grandfather

DAVID MEYER BIDERMAN

Caesarea - London

The funeral will take place on Wednesday, May 14, 1997, at 10:30 a.m. at the Caesarea Cemetery.

The shiva will be held at Ha'alon 6, Caesarea.

Wife: **Pearl**
Daughter and son-in-law: **Ruth and Andy Gllad**
Grandchildren: **Tamar and Jonathan**

CHARLES H. BENDHEIM

The YESHIVA UNIVERSITY FAMILY mourns the passing of a longtime friend, a distinguished philanthropist and communal leader, a benefactor who with his wife **Els**, served on YU's Board of Trustees for over three decades and was honorary board chairman of our affiliated **Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary**.

We extend heartfelt condolences to the children, **Dr. Judi (and Rabbi Harris) Gedalia, Jack C. (and Dr. Giti B.) Bendheim, Philip E. (and Donna) Bendheim, Debra (and Rabbi Barry L.) Eisenberg, Aviva (and Marvin) Sussman, Edna (and Aver) Zussman, and Karen (and Dr. William) Levine**; sister, **Mrs. Gertrude Herlands Engelberg**; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and the entire family.

May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Dr. Norman Lamm, President, Yeshiva University

Olivr Corporation Ltd.

Its officers and staff, mourn the loss of

CHARLES CHAIM HACOEN BENDHEIM ז"ל

Board member and cofounder, whose wisdom, guidance and support contributed greatly to our success.

We join in the family's sorrow.

Holiday road toll: 3 dead, 130 injured

By **DAVID RUDGE** and **Jim**

Three people were killed and scores were injured in road accidents over the holiday. Police reported a total of over 90 road accidents, in which over 130 people were injured, throughout the country from Sunday until last night.

On Independence Day morning, on Haifa's main coastal road, Sderot Hahaganah, a car travelling towards town swerved out of control and struck and killed 19-year-old **Vadim Idelchik**, who was standing in the middle of a traffic island.

The car, whose driver and a passenger were lightly hurt, also hit another vehicle. The injured were taken to Haifa's Ramham Hospital.

A four-year old boy, **Aviad Nissim Ben-Shmuel**, was killed in Safed on Sunday afternoon as he was running from kindergarten to his father's car. He ran into the street from behind a parked car and was hit by a passing car, as his father, six-year-old brother, and classmates looked on.

His father rushed him to a Magen David Adom station,

where paramedics unsuccessfully tried to resuscitate him. Thousands attended the boy's funeral in Safed later that day.

Near Rishon Lezion on Sunday, a car struck and killed a motorcyclist a half-kilometer from Beit Dagan junction. A Magen David Adom ambulance crew pronounced him dead at the scene.

Ten people were lightly injured in a collision between a taxi and a commercial vehicle in Kiryat Gat. Among the injured were two nurses who were on their way to work at Barzilai Hospital in Ashkelon.

On Ashkelon Beach, Tourism Minister **Moshe Katsav** was lightly injured in the foot yesterday while trying to free his car from the sand. The car became stuck on the way to a family picnic, and the minister got out to help his driver free it.

Passing motorists in a jeep stopped and offered to try towing the car out. During the rescue attempt Katsav's car suddenly rolled back and ran over his foot. He was treated at nearby Barzilai Hospital, but was then taken for observation at Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem.

MK Avraham Stern dies

By **LIAT COLLINS**

National Religious Party MK **Avraham Stern** died yesterday at the age of 62 after a long illness.

Stern joined the Knesset after the last elections and was a member of the Interior and House committees. Born in Haifa, Stern served in the army in a Nahal group on Kibbutz Ein Hanatziv,



Avraham Stern. (Efraim Kishon)

which he made his permanent home. He will be buried at 5 p.m. at the kibbutz. He was the father of four.

Stern was a central figure in the national-religious world as a former secretary-general of Bnei Akiva, the political secretary of the Religious Kibbutz Movement, and an active member of the NRP. The NRP is expected to appoint **Elkana Council Head Nissim Slomiansky** as his replacement in the Knesset. Slomiansky, 51, was a founder of Gush Emunim.

Eitan to reveal new assassination details

Likud faction and coalition chairman **Michael Eitan** is expected to reveal information which was apparently not known to the

Shamgar Commission, which investigated the murder of prime minister **Yitzhak Rabin**, at a press conference today.

Liat Collins

CORRECTION

In the Independence Day supplement published on Sunday, the woman appearing in the Page 2 photo with **Abba Eban** and former US president **Harry Truman** was **Vera Weizmann**, the wife of Israel's first president, and not as reported.

ARRIVALS

Milada Ayrton, Switzerland, for the 27th Board of Governors Meeting of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

We mourn the loss of our beloved

HANS H. WACHTEL ז"ל

of Vienna, Lima and Los Angeles

A Donor of the Aptowitz Foundation for Haifa

His wife: **Edith née Aptowitz**
His children: **Professor Anthony (Tony) Wachtel-Aptowitz and wife, Chela Rabbant Susan (Tsutsi) Kalser and husband, Rabbi Claudio**

His brothers-in-law: **Willi Z. Aptowitz and wife, Manzi Professor Walter Arlen-Aptowitz**

His grandchildren: **Cynthia, David, Yonathan, Raffi and Elisheva**

May he rest in peace after a long and turbulent life

Welzmann Institute of Science
The Staff of the Information Systems - Computation Center
The Engineers Committee

mourn the passing of

LAWRENCE KALMAN ז"ל

and extend condolences to the family

LAWRENCE STEPHEN KALMAN

passed away on Sunday, May 11, 1997 at Kaplan Hospital, Rehovot, after a lengthy illness

Mourned by:
His wife, **Barbara Hart**
Father, **Newell M. Kalman** and the late **Frances of Ottawa**
Brother, **Harold of Vancouver**
Children, **Trudy Deutch of Rehovot**
Linda Nichol of Hong Kong
Josh of Jerusalem
Daniel of Jerusalem
David of Toronto
Grandchildren **Noah and Lior Deutch**, and **Joseph and Sarah Nichol**

Our sincere condolences to

Josh Kalman

on the death of his

FATHER

Management and Staff of the Jerusalem Post

To Attorney **Daniel Kalman** and family

Deepest sympathy upon the passing of your

Father

Davies, Korn - Law Office

NO TELEPHONE SUBMISSIONS

הקדמה מן האוכל

The nation celebrates 49 years

The parks were packed, the beaches full, army bases and depots were overrun by visitors, as Israel celebrated its 49th Independence Day in traditional fashion - with barbecues, fireworks, picnics, plastic hammers, and festive prayers.

An army fly-past and naval sail-past were among the day's highlights. The air show included an acrobatic display by warplanes and maneuvers by transport planes and helicopters, while the navy paraded missile boats, patrol boats, and attack craft off the coast.

Defense Ministry museums were open free of charge, and attracted many visitors seeking a respite from the hot weather. But the smell of grilling meat from family barbecues permeated every park and nature reserve; in some locations, it seemed as if every square meter of grass was occupied.

Some found unique ways to celebrate the holiday. At the Meron state-religious school in north Tel Aviv, pupils and their parents together built a playground primarily from scrap materials they had collected.

The celebrations began Sunday night with festive evening prayers in synagogues, fireworks displays, and free entertainment on stages in neighborhoods all over the country.

The official opening ceremony took place on Jerusalem's Mt. Herzl, when the traditional beacons were lit by 13 persons chosen to symbolize the Zionist struggle to establish the state and marking 100 years since the First Zionist Congress in Basel.

The ceremony also marked the end of Remembrance Day for the fallen of Israel's Wars. At the



Soldier Zion Rahamim, on guard yesterday at Canada Park near Latrun, is treated to a grilled meat sandwich by the Konfino family from Ramle, who were among the estimated 1 million visitors to Jewish National Fund parks around the country. (Joe Melkon)

main memorial ceremony Sunday at the Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said: "Just

as the great sacrifice cannot be measured, neither can the size of the debt that the State of Israel owes its fallen.

"On this day, when the disputes are silenced, when there are no factions and camps, on this day when our pain is all one, we bow

our heads with great humility and gratitude and promise to make an effort to be worthy of the memory of the fallen." (Iim)

NEWS

in brief

Firebombs thrown at border policemen

Two firebombs were thrown at a Border Police patrol near the Cave of Machpela on Sunday evening. No one was injured. Earlier in the day, a firebomb was thrown at a car with an Israeli license plate near Kafri Tajiv. None of the firebombs caused injuries or damage and soldiers searched both areas for the assailants. (Iim)

Schools to 'adopt' memorials to IDF fallen

A plan being drawn up by Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled will have the nation's memorials to the IDF fallen adopted by pupils, schools and youth groups, the Education Ministry announced over the weekend. The plan calls for the memorials, many of which are in need of a clean-up or repair, to be maintained by the youngsters. They will also learn about the particular site they have adopted, including its history and the history of the IDF units that fought at the site. "I have no doubt this will also be another element in the educational system's efforts to deal with the problem of young people's motivation to serve in combat units," Peled said. (Arieh Dean Cohen)

IDF gets another female general

Drora Pe'er, head of the IDF's casualty division, has been promoted to the rank of brigadier-general, bringing to two the number of woman generals in the IDF. Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Liptin-Shahak promoted Pe'er, 48, in appreciation of her work with bereaved families and disabled veterans, the IDF said. The other brigadier-general is Israela Oron, commander of the Women's Corps. No woman has ever achieved the rank of major-general. (Arieh O'Sullivan)

Russian immigrant admits to spying for KGB

Anatoly Gendler, who immigrated here from Russia in 1981, admitted last week to spying on Israel for Russia and to having contact with a foreign agent, as part of a plea bargain approved by Tel Aviv District Court. Under the agreement, he will be sentenced to 11 years in prison. Gendler, an engineer who worked for the Israel Electric Corporation, told the court that if he had refused to work for the KGB, he would have endangered his relatives who were still living in Russia. (Iim)

Request to extradite killer of HU president

Israel has requested the extradition from the US of Haim Nagar, who is suspected of driving the truck that killed then-president of the Hebrew University Yoram Ben-Porat and his wife and son, on the Arava road in October 1992. Two years later, during his trial in the Beersheba District Court, Nagar fled to the US. He was arrested there two months ago. Nagar is also wanted in the US on suspicion of stabbing another Israeli citizen. (Batshava Tsur)

Arabs, Druse demand educational programs

Adala, the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, petitioned the High Court of Justice last week to order the Education Ministry to include Arab and Druse schools in special programs to help weaker sectors of the population. There are 140 localities and neighborhoods where the programs are being conducted, the petition says, but only two of them are Arab and four are Druse. The petition says this is discriminatory. "If the purpose is to help weak pupils, how does a pupil from [the Beduino town of] Rahat not qualify while one from Herzliya does?" the petition asks. (Batshava Tsur)

Yitzhar settlers move onto disputed hilltop

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The settlement of Yitzhar last night claimed that 10 families had moved into tents and makeshift houses on the hilltop, on which three houses were demolished by the authorities last week. According to Yitzhar secretary Yehuda Liebman, the settlers have set up a communal kitchen and have enough people to hold a minyan "even twice a day." Liebman said that yesterday, Independence Day, the settlement was inundated with visitors who came to show their solidarity with the settlers. "There were tour buses, private cars, people came from all over the country to show their support," he said. Yesterday afternoon Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush visited the site and planted a pomegranate tree on the hilltop, said Liebman. The IDF has set up an encampment near the hilltop to monitor the situation and is refusing to allow any building materials to be taken there or permanent structures to be built. "If someone had a difficult time in the past when there were just two families living here now they have 10," said an exuberant Liebman, adding that the settlers have gotten donations of money and food from supporters.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Holiday reassures country of its calling

By ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

The clackety-clack of a woman's heels was as obnoxious in the silence that had settled over the Rebov Ben-Yehuda Street pedestrian mall as a motorcycle starting up in Jerusalem on Yom Kippur. The siren marking Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars on Sunday morning had brought sidewalk cafe sitters to their feet and froze pedestrians in their stride. Hundreds of people stood to attention at angles to each other, facing in whatever direction the siren had caught them. It was an odd tableau that suggested both the disconnectedness of individuals who go their own way and the discipline of a group adhering to a common call.

Halfway through the two-minute siren signal came the sound of the heels. A 30-ish woman appeared around a corner and hurried down Ben-Yehuda, the only mov-

ing thing in sight. Her dress and beret placed her in the Orthodox camp, her behavior in the haredi camp. She was out of her direction. She seemed a bit frightened at her daring but even more defiant. When the siren had sounded a moment before, a haredi man on the street had hurried into the nearest building so as not to participate in this secular rite - but also not to give offense to those who did. The woman, however, seemed to be making a point of giving offense.

"This kind of ceremony is just not Jewish," a Mea She'arim resident said later, when asked to offer an explanation for the woman's behavior. There had been numerous reports of similar expressions of contempt by haredim during the day.

A perceived paganism and revulsion from it may explain the haredi attitude towards the secular practice but the woman's aggressiveness suggested

something deeper and perhaps more personal. It is a common assumption among haredim that seculars are a shallow, valueless people lacking in self-discipline and direction, an assessment, needless to say, that is precisely opposite to their assessment of their own culture. However, the Remembrance Day-Independence Day ceremonies constitute displays of secular discipline and secular calling, summoned forth by a siren rather than a shofar. Might it be that this spontaneous display of homage, the implied sense of community and the suggestion of a value system beyond the haredi ken subconsciously threaten their certainties?

The military display off Tel Aviv yesterday provided the seculars, in turn, with reassurances about their own concerns regarding national discipline and purpose. Only a few hundred sailors and airmen and a few dozen planes and ships participated in the sail-past and fly-by but the superb demonstration bespoke a

sense of strength and steely purpose not normally visible in daily life. Yesterday's military displays were modest, as befits an off-year that is marking time until the jubilee celebrations next year.

It is an off-year in the political sense, too. In the past, Independence Day celebrations have played a communal healing role in the wake of national traumas such as wars or acts of terror. There is neither trauma this year nor a sense of where the nation is heading. The prime minister says there will be no war and that he will achieve peace on his terms. The chief of staff warns of new tensions and says ominously that the public is closing its eyes to the dangers of missile warfare.

As reassuring as the sound of the warplanes yesterday was the sound of laughter and relaxed conversations in backyards and parks as families and friends marked the day. Whatever the politics of the moment, the spirit of the nation appears sound.

Weizman: IDF must have sophisticated weapons

By BATSHAVA TSUR

President Ezer Weizman yesterday called on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to find the way to fund the economic arming of the IDF with sophisticated weapons. "The defense establishment should not be subject to a controversial

public debate, Weizman said. He spoke at a Beit Hanassi ceremony where he awarded certificates to 120 outstanding soldiers. The ceremony was attended by Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Liptin-Shahak, and South Lebanon Army commander Gen. Antoine Lahad.

Hammer calls for end to hatred

By ARIEH DEAN COHEN

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer pleaded for an end to "hatred between brothers" yesterday in a speech at the Israel Prize awards ceremony in Jerusalem. Hammer said such hatred is "an internal enemy" threatening the country: "Is it conceivable for us to stand idly and watch the splitting of this country, which we are committed to keep whole? If we don't find a

way to neutralize this enemy, it is liable to be our downfall." Hammer said that one of the sources of this hatred is "the certainty we each have that only we are right. Each of us has his own State of Israel in his heart, each his own Jewish people. Each believes he has the most correct view of Jewish history, and what he thinks is the best idea for its future." Hammer said that as Israel begins its 50th year, "we must understand

that as a mature society, the Jewish people is not just what each of us wants individually. Israel Prizes were awarded to 15 people in a variety of disciplines yesterday. A print journalism prize was not awarded; the Israel Prize Committee retracted its decision to grant the Israel Prize for Journalism to Me'ariv journalist Shmuel Schmitzer, after complaints about racism in his article on the aliyah of the Falash Mura.

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Truth body spotlights dark days of ANC

By ANTON FERREIRA

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - South Africa's Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said yesterday the ruling African National Congress (ANC) had nothing to hide about one of the darkest chapters in its history, the torture and execution of dissidents and spies.

He told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, however, that if it concentrated on ANC human rights abuses it ran the risk of portraying the party's liberation struggle in the wrong light.

"We have nothing to hide," he told a hearing of the commission, chaired by Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

But, he declared: "We must avoid the danger where, by concentrating on those particular and exceptional acts... we convey the impression that the struggle for liberation was itself a gross violation of human rights." The hearing was the first in which President Nelson Mandela's ANC leadership has been questioned in public about abuses in its camps in exile, most of them in the early 1980s, its decade-long feud with the Inkatha Freedom Party and the killing of civilians.

The ANC apologized in an opening statement to the commission for the deaths of civilians during its guerrilla war against the apartheid government and its security forces.

Mbeki led a high-level ANC delegation to the hearing, called to expand on an initial presentation by the party in August last year about its anti-apartheid guerrilla war.

He was accompanied by Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo, Transport Minister Mac Maharaj, Defense Minister Joe Modise, Deputy Defense Minister Ronnie Kasrils, Deputy Minister of Intelligence Joe Nhlanhla and other party officials.

The ANC has admitted executing at least 34 people in Angola alone during the 1980s. Some were mutineers and others were accused of spying for the apartheid government.

Commissioner Howard Vally asked the ANC delegation if it felt that the torture of suspected spies was justified.

"As a recipient of torture in 1964, I could never justify the use of torture," Maharaj replied, adding that party leaders had disciplined those responsible because the ANC did not want to use the same methods as the white government it was fighting.

Modise acknowledged that women combatants had been sexually harassed and abused in ANC camps in exile. "The ANC took steps to correct this, it was a very serious problem," he said.

On the ANC's feud with Inkatha, in which about 15,000 people died in the decade from 1985, Mbeki said his party had taken only defensive action.

"Some self-defense units did indeed act in defense of the people...not against Inkatha but against warlords," Mbeki said.

He said warlords were paid by the apartheid government to foment conflict.

The ANC statement repeated the party's view that its armed struggle against apartheid, launched in 1960, had been a just war and that civilians had never been deliberately targeted.

"(We) certainly had the capacity to kill many thousands of civilians," the statement said. "This would have been easy to do, but we never took this route."

It referred to several bombs which killed civilians in crowded city streets or bars and said: "We regret the deaths and injuries to civilians arising from armed actions. We apologize to the next-of-kin for the suffering and hurt."

It said two such bombings — one at a Durban bar that killed three civilians and wounded about 60, and another outside air force headquarters in central Pretoria — had been mistimed.

"Some recruits had sketchy political understanding of the nature of the struggle...some were never thoroughly under the discipline of the ANC...some attacks occurred because of anger."

"At times insufficient training could have resulted in situations in which (bombers) were not able to ensure that explosions took place at the intended time," the statement said.

Opposition takes Milan but Prodi satisfied

ROME (Reuters) - The opposition took control of Milan, Italy's second city, in local elections but wins for the governing center-left coalition in Turin and elsewhere pointed to a political draw ahead of key decisions on Europe and the economy.

Results yesterday from second-round mayoral run-offs in 77 cities and towns brought smiles all round from the national political blocs, allowing everybody to cry victory.

Despite defeat in Milan, where a center-right Freedom Alliance candidate won, Prime Minister Romano Prodi told Italian reporters in Sarajevo that he was content with the outcome.

"The elements of satisfaction prevail," the ANSA news agency quoted Prodi as saying.

"It is a consolidation for our future action," he said. "We will be able to march more rapidly towards our objectives." The vote was the first significant test of sentiment since Prodi took office one

year ago and a barometer of the public mood after 12 months of tough budgetary action to try to squeeze Italy into the start of Europe's single currency.

Milan, Italy's financial capital and previously held by the separatist Northern League, was the jewel in the crown in the contests, which included 10 big cities.

It went to the center-right Freedom Alliance whose candidate, industrialist Gabriele Albertini, beat center-left Olive Tree rival Aldo Fumagalli with 53.1 percent of the vote.

In Turin, Olive Tree incumbent Valentino Castellani was narrowly re-elected with 50.4 percent of votes after striking an electoral pact with the hard-left party Communist Refoundation.

Prodi relies on Refoundation for a parliamentary majority but ideological differences, especially on public spending and pensions, have made for a rocky relationship.

In all, the Olive Tree won four of the 10 big contests and the Freedom Alliance four. The Northern League, whose incumbent mayor in Milan was trounced in the first round on April 27, won in the northern towns of Lecco and Pordenone.

The center-left coalition is due to start talks with union leaders today over possible changes to social spending and many economists are urging a fresh overhaul of pensions, just two years after the last reform of the generous state system.

The Freedom Alliance and political commentators said the Turin result showed the Olive Tree could not succeed without the hard left.

They argued that the result in Turin, Italy's industrial capital and home of car giant Fiat, could strengthen Refoundation's hand in a looming showdown over reductions in welfare spending the government is contemplating to cut the budget deficit sufficiently to join Europe's monetary union.



Historic swim

Australian marathon swimmer Susie Maroney is assisted by an unidentified man moments after completing a 140 km. route in Key West, Florida, yesterday. Maroney became the first person to swim the Florida Straits from Havana. (Reuters)

After weekend of violence, Albanian leader pledges election

News agencies

TIRANA - After 10 Albanians died in a weekend of violence, President Sali Berisha affirmed yesterday that planned elections would take place, and that he supported a simultaneous vote on the return of the monarchy.

The elections are seen as vital to prevent Albania plunging once more into the violence and chaos that erupted in February and March over the collapse of pyramid investment schemes.

"I would assure (you) that elections will be held. Holding elections is vital for Albania," he told a news conference.

Berisha stopped short of naming a day for the election but said he would respect a deal brokered last

week by European envoy Franz Vranitzky that foresees a vote before the end of June.

Under the deal, signed by Albania's 10 main parties, a new election law had to be approved yesterday and passed by parliament this week so Berisha could announce the election day by May 15.

Under Albanian law, the president must call an election at least 45 days before voting takes place.

The Vranitzky accord also calls for the disbanding of so-called salvation committees, formed mostly in the south amid the lawlessness of February and March.

The political deal called for the groups to disband on May 14 but they plan to meet to discuss the issue only on May 16.

The groups are fiercely opposed to Berisha and blame him for the failed savings schemes.

Berisha said the committees issue would also be solved.

"Undoubtedly they were and still are a serious obstacle that will be overcome," Berisha also said he favored a referendum on the return of the monarchy to be staged the same day as the elections.

Exiled King Leka returned to Albania during the troubles. He hopes to take advantage of the disillusionment of ordinary people to convince them to restore a monarchy.

Berisha said he supported a continued republic but that the Albanian people should be able to express their view on the issue

through a referendum.

The death toll in a bloody weekend in the chaotic Balkan state rose to ten.

The killings are new examples of the lawlessness which has claimed several hundred lives since the rioting erupted in March. Estimates say up to a million weapons were looted from military arsenals, adding a deadly edge to the chaos.

In the southern port town of Vlora, the epicenter of the unrest, an unidentified man was murdered on Sunday in what local police called an execution.

Near Vlora, one man was killed after trying to stop his car being stolen while two men were killed at the railway station after gunmen raked their car with bullets.

Kuwait says US might seek to oust Saddam

KUWAIT (Reuters) - The United States might try to bring about the removal from power of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Kuwait's ambassador to Washington said in remarks published yesterday.

"Sheikh Mohammed al-Sabah said he has noted that the US policy was inclined to formulate a mechanism to bring about the downfall of the current Iraqi regime," the official Kuwaiti News Agency said of the envoy's remarks at a seminar by the agency.

The ambassador did not list Washington's steps to end Saddam's rule but said they included the tightening of the noose around the Iraqi leader's neck by the Congress which endorsed a bill urging the White House to try Saddam as a war criminal.

In March, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright affirmed Washington's intentions to back political opposition in Iraq and for the first time announced a clear commitment to improve ties with a new leadership in Baghdad.

The State Department later denied that Albright was urging the overthrow of Saddam.

Mother: Serial suspect is gay prostitute

SAN DIEGO (AP) - The man being sought for questioning in the slayings of four people in the Midwest and New Jersey supported himself by having sex with other men, his mother said.

Mary Ann Cumanan of Eureka, Illinois, said in yesterday's Chicago Sun-Times that she believes her son Andrew was a "high-class homosexual prostitute."

The statement comes amid growing confusion over whether Cumanan was a friend of aspiring actor Duke Miglin, whose wealthy father was slain this month in what

authorities say could be a cross-country killing spree.

Bruce Kerschner, the owner of a gay bookstore in San Diego and an acquaintance of Cumanan, was quoted in The Star Tribune as saying Cumanan and Duke Miglin were friends.

Kerschner then called a news conference to deny that he knew of any such relationship.

Cumanan, 27, is charged with murder in the shooting of Minneapolis architect David Madison, 33, whose body was found May 3.

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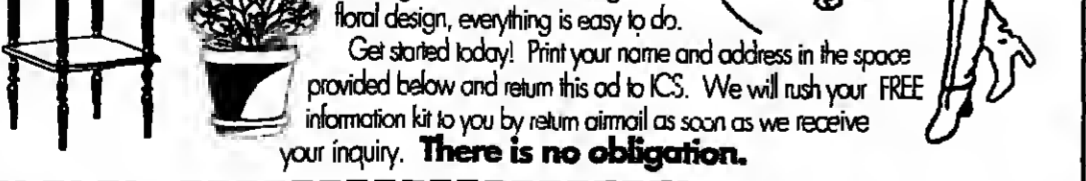
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WEIZMAN

Continued from Page 1

"We have reached the eve of the final status talks," he said. "We've always known they would be the most difficult stage... A lot more desire and a lot more understanding are needed."

"I was the icebreaker... but the ships are not getting ready today to move forward."

Later, addressing the diplomatic community at his annual Independence Day cocktail party, Weizman expressed the hope that

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'Zyklon' plates cause outrage

NORFOLK, Virginia (AP) - The Anti-Defamation League has asked state officials to recall the license plates that read "ZYKLON B" issued to a man convicted two years ago of painting racial slurs on a church.

Zyklon B was the cyanide gas used in the sham showers at Auschwitz and other Nazi death camps. The league said use of the name on a license plate violates state motor vehicle bans on "offensive" and "disparaging" content.

Samuel Kaplan, director of the local league office, said the plate not only offends Jews and other victims of the Holocaust, but soldiers who died fighting the Nazis.

Kaplan said the plates were registered to Ryan Maziarka of Hampton.

Maziarka was convicted in 1995, when he was 19, of painting racial and religious slurs on the New Bethel Cathedral, a Hampton church with a predominately black congregation.

Maziarka was asked if he had a reaction to the league's effort. "Aside from the fact that freedom of speech and religion is dead in this country, no," he said.

Handwritten note: كلانا من الاصل

Iran quake death toll rises to 2,400



A family gathers round the body of a relative this weekend, killed during the massive earthquake that struck Iran. (Reuters)

News agencies

ABIZ, Iran - Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani yesterday interrupted a tour of former Soviet republics to visit areas in eastern Iran struck by an earthquake that killed nearly 2,400 people, Iran's foreign minister said.

"Our president left Ashgabat (Turkmenistan) for the earthquake zone in Birjand," the foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, said. "He will give instructions to the local authorities on how to cope and deal with the crisis."

At least 4,000 people were killed or injured in the devastating weekend quake, state television said. Earlier government statements said that at least 2,400 people died in Saturday's quake, and it was unclear if the death toll had risen. As many as 6,000 had been reported injured by the government and relief workers, and 50,000 made homeless.

"According to the latest reports from the correspondents of the central news unit from the earthquake stricken areas, 200 villages have suffered between 20 to 100 percent destruction and unfortunately 4,000 of our compatriots have been killed or injured," the television said.

A huge relief effort was under way in the 100 km stretch between Birjand and Qaen, which was hardest hit by the quake. The region is dotted by poor villages and mud butts near

the Afghan border.

Convoys of buses, trucks and pickups rushed hundreds of volunteers over narrow dirt roads to the remote mountains in northeastern Iran, Iranian military aircraft - US-made C-130s and helicopters - flew food, clothes and medicine.

"There are some things that we can do," Rafsanjani said as he toured several stricken villages. "But there are things that we cannot do, like compensate the lives of your relatives."

Rafsanjani, who must step down this year in the May 23 elections at the end of his second term, promised that his government would help rebuild homes and provide interest-free loans as well as grants to families.

As his motorcade drove through the devastation, thousands mobbed his car, some clinging to the vehicle. Others chanted the traditional greeting, "Khoshamadi" or "Welcome."

At one point, Rafsanjani got out and hugged an old woman who lost her husband.

The quake struck with a magnitude of 7.1. Aftershocks rattled what was left standing, forcing tens of thousands of people to camp amid the rubble in the dusty streets.

In Abiz village on the foothills of the Shaskoob Mountain, hundreds of villagers, many covered in dirt and blood, gathered around rubble where an old man said he heard a cry for help.

hour, only to find a chicken that had somehow survived. Then they dragged out a mangled corpse to the walls of relatives who beat their chests and pulled their hair.

Then they heard another desperate cry.

Alireza Rayee, 32, was pulled from the rubble barely conscious, trapped for 27 hours. A man rushed to bring him water. Another wiped dirt from his face and fanned him with cardboard. "God has given my son a second life," shouted his mother, Fatemeh, crying and holding her son's head in her arms.

Rayee's rescue was a rare example of joy across a landscape shattered by the earthquake.

In Abiz, a poor village about 90 km east of Qaen, none of the 700 mud houses were standing. One-third of its 1,200 people were killed, villagers said.

In most villages, the streets had been transformed into rows of rubble. Survivors washed the bodies of their loved ones and buried them in mass graves. Volunteers handed out aid or dug through the collapsed structures with their bare hands to look for bodies.

Rayee said he thought he would die beneath the rubble in Abiz.

"But I prayed all the time that I was nodder there, and God answered my prayers," he said, grimacing from a broken shoulder.

Cheers as exiled archbishop returns to Zaire

KINSHASA (Reuters) - Archbishop Laurent Monsengwo, a prominent player in Zaire's drawn-out democratic transition, returned home yesterday to cheers from onlookers who see in him a way of averting a bloody battle for the capital Kinshasa.

Witnesses said Monsengwo, tipped by some as a possible key to a political settlement to Zaire's civil war, travelled across the Zaire River to the capital's port after arriving in neighboring Congo from Europe.

Supporters of ailing President Mobutu Sese Seko voted at the weekend to give Monsengwo back his old post as speaker of Zaire's transitional parliament, making him the constitutional successor to Mobutu in the event of death or incapacity.

Monsengwo has yet to say whether he will take the job.

But Laurent Kabila's rebel alliance, whose troops were last reported to be 200 km from Kinshasa, bitterly oppose the idea, threatening to attack the capital if he accepts.

Zaire's radical opposition, the other major political force in parliament, also opposes the idea. They walked out during Saturday's vote.

"I will only accept if I have national and international guarantees," Monsengwo told a news conference in Belgium on Sunday during a stopover on his way back to Kinshasa from the Vatican where he attended a conference. He did not elaborate.

"I will give a press conference in Kinshasa," he told journalists in Congo's capital Brazzaville yesterday.

Monsengwo, archbishop of Zaire's rebel-held third city of Kisangani, held the job of

speaker at the height of Zaire's promised transition to democracy.

Mobutu supporters, fearing his popularity with elections likely, joined forces with opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi's backers in 1995 to oust him. Tshisekedi supporters dismiss Monsengwo as "Mobutist."

Monsengwo is still popular in a country with a Roman Catholic majority.

Some diplomats and politicians say he could step in and provide Mobutu with a dignified exit. Others say he could act as a national mediator - a role he played as speaker until ousted in July 1995.

The Vatican has yet to give its blessing to the move but Monsengwo promised initiatives to find a peaceful settlement. He gave no details but said these aimed "at a transition which has consensus support and is quick."

Lebanese still divided over Syrian presence

BEIRUT (AP) - Barely a day after Pope John Paul II's weekend visit to preach Christian-Muslim reconciliation, the two communities yesterday remained at odds over a major dividing issue - the Syrian military presence here.

Christians, particularly Maronite Catholics, had hoped that the pope would issue a strong call for the withdrawal of an estimated 40,000 Syrian soldiers.

Muslims have supported the Syrian presence, saying it has helped Lebanon achieve unity.

John Paul noted the Christian fears, but did not explicitly endorse their demand during his 32-hour visit, his first ever to Lebanon.

During his trip, the pope called for reconciliation and forgiveness after the 1975-90 civil war, which saw brutal fighting between Muslim and Christian militias. Christians make up about 45 percent of Lebanon's 3.2 million people.

The pope also released a major document designed to unify and guide Lebanon's Catholic churches. It was a response to Lebanese bishops who met at the Vatican two years ago and demanded the departure of Syrian troops and Israeli forces, who occupy 10 percent of southern Lebanon.

John Paul stopped short of making such an explicit call.



Pope John Paul II talks with the Greek Orthodox Patriarch Ignatios in the Lebanese village of Haresa Sunday. (Reuters)

"I am aware of the current great difficulties: the threatening occupation of the south of Lebanon... the presence of non-Lebanese forces on the territory," he said in the document.

In a statement before heading back to Rome, the pope also called for safeguarding Lebanon's "territorial integrity." The pope's indirect reference to Syria's military presence in Lebanon satisfied neither right-wing Christians nor Muslims.

Dory Chamoun, an anti-Syrian Christian opposition leader, called the document "timid."

"It could have said that there are Syrian forces in Lebanon who should have left a long time ago," Chamoun told the Paris-based Radio Monte Carlo.

Mohammed Mehdi Shamseddine, spiritual head of the 1.2 million Shites, Lebanon's largest sect, also told Radio Monte Carlo he differed with the Vatican on Syria's presence in Lebanon.

South Asia summit takes aim at tensions

MALE, The Maldives (AP) - A summit meeting of seven south Asian nations opened yesterday with calls to lift the world's poorest region from despair by ending military tension and promoting economic cooperation.

The summit was overshadowed by the first meeting in four years between the prime ministers of India and Pakistan, raising hopes of progress toward ending 50 years of hostility that has produced three wars. "We can't afford the continuation of tensions, military confrontation and escalating defense budgets," said Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

"We in South Asia must also

break out of the old," said Sharif in a speech to the other six heads of government. "There is no looking back on the wasted years of the past." Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral welcomed Sharif's remarks and offered a sweeping vision for turning the fledgling seven-nation trading bloc into a European-style economic community.

The Indo-Pakistan bilateral meeting caps a progression that began in March when senior diplomats ended a three-year suspension and resumed negotiations over their countries' problems, focusing on their rival claims to the Himalayan territory of Kashmir.

UK focus on Europe, not United States

LONDON (AP) - Declaring human rights are central to its foreign policy, Britain's new Labor government said yesterday it will be stricter about arms sales, and it also may seek economic sanctions against Nigeria.

In contrast with previous British governments, Foreign Secretary Robin Cook in a four-page policy statement made no specific reference to the United States, instead stressing Britain's membership of the European Union.

"I strongly believe that Britain will be a more valuable and a more valued ally of America if we do actually emerge as a leading partner within Europe," Cook said. "Because a Britain which does not have influence in Europe will be of less interest to Washington."

Cook, due in Washington soon, said there is a "strong personal chemistry" between Prime Minister Tony Blair and President Clinton.

With glitzy reminiscence of Labor's election campaign, the policy presentation in an ornate ballroom at

the Foreign Office, the Lucarno Room, was preceded by a video extolling British exports, from the Rolls Royce engine to the arts.

On Europe, Cook said the Labor government will reverse the increasing isolation of the Conservative government, whose right-wing strongly opposed closer integration of the 15-nation EU.

"Some other nations are beginning to be more frank about their reservations (on closer union) than they needed to be when they could rely on Britain blocking everything anyone thought of," said Cook.

Labor, which ousted the long-governing Conservatives in a landslide election victory May 1, immediately signed on to European regulations on labor rights, rejected by the Conservatives.

However, Labor shares many Conservative reservations about closer union. For example, Cook reiterated yesterday that it is unlikely Britain will be among the initial group of EU countries adopting the new single currency due to start in January 1999.

Mexico volcano spews ash

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - Mexico's Popocatepetl volcano spewed out red hot rocks and a huge ash cloud early yesterday in one of the most intense eruptions for 14 months, authorities said.

Ash smothered houses and cars up to 60 km away from the active volcano's snow-capped crater, including in the industrial city of Puebla, a 1 million-plus populace 40 km west of Popocatepetl.

"It was one of the biggest puffs in terms of intensity since March 1996," the National Disaster Prevention Center said.

There were no immediate reports of deaths or injuries from this latest eruption which started at 8:45 p.m. local time Sunday and lasted 20 minutes, the center said.

Vulcanologists said the ash cloud fell so thickly on the flanks of the volcano that visibility was reduced to 50 metres.

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The Unreal Thing Un-American Ugly Americans

By BARBARA CROSSETTE

ON the outskirts of Mandalay, Myanmar, the heart of Burmese religious and cultural life, a kind of California suburb is taking shape, with expensive detached houses in landscaped gardens walled off from the city's less prosperous reality. A shopping mall can't be far behind.

Another sign of the Americanization of Asia? Not so, say the neighbors. The big white mansions of concrete and glass are neo-Thai in their inspiration, built with Burmese and Chinese money, at least some of it garnered from narcotics and the smuggling of Burmese gems and timber. Everything about this phenomenon is Asian. So are the construction companies clawing up virgin rain forests to build golf courses in Malaysia and the studios in Hong Kong and Bombay that make films violent enough to startle Hollywood — and to provoke a burgeoning Asian backlash against perceived threats to family values and decency.

Source of Evil

It used to be that when things started to unravel in almost any Asian country it was easy to finger the culprit: Americanization. Are families falling apart? Dig out the American divorce rates. Kids joining gangs? Talk about Los Angeles and American movies. Rock groups replacing the gamelan? Must be the imported TV programs. The environment in ruins? Blame New York's air conditioners. AIDS? That's a Western disease, the Thais once said confidently as more and more warehouse-sized "massage parlors" opened.

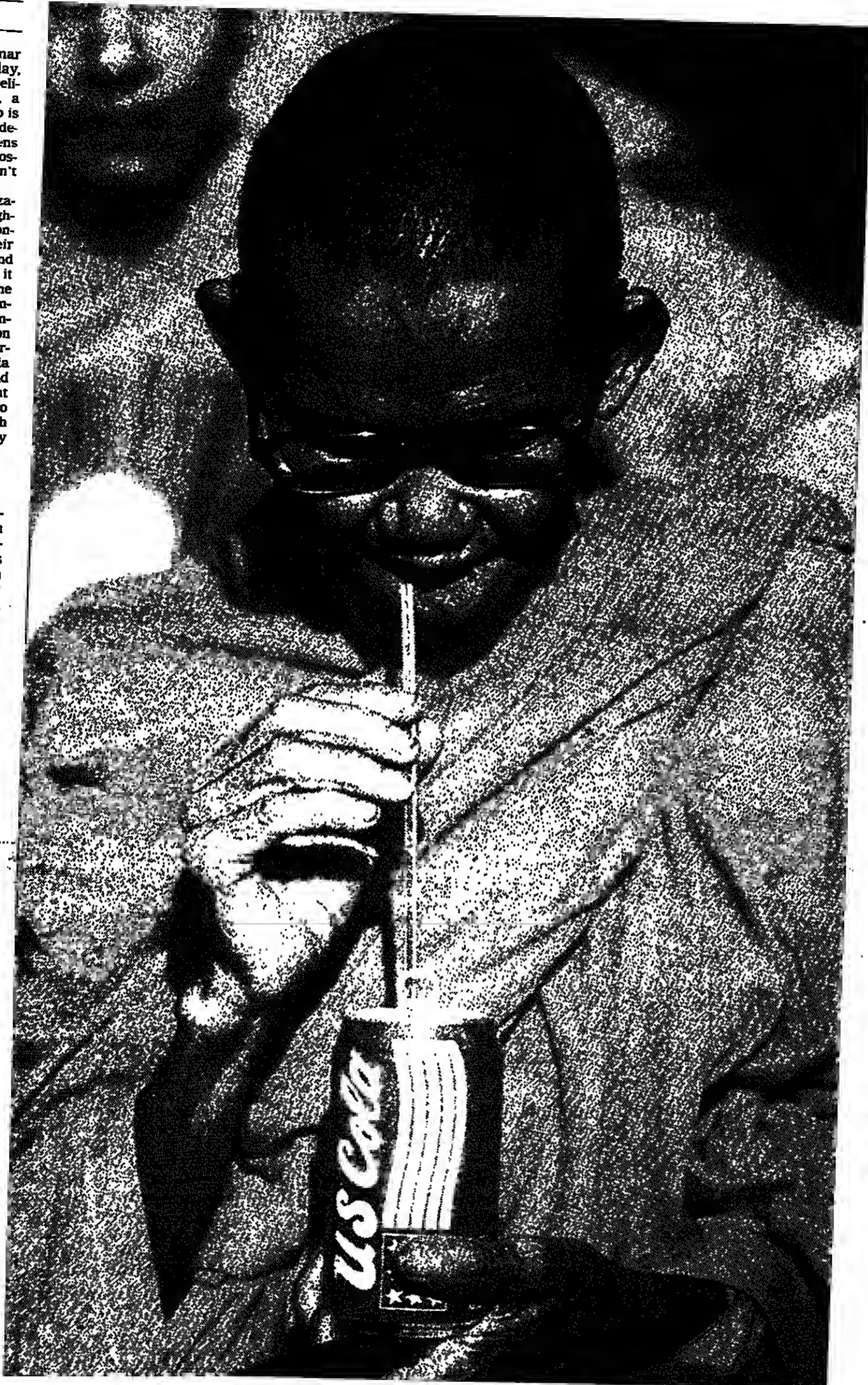
Now in cities, towns and satellite-dish villages across Asia — and in other parts of the world where rising incomes and greater access to goods and information are breeding consumerism and speeding modernization — it is getting much harder to hold the West, particularly the United States, responsible for assaults on local cultures.

Worldwide communications — especially satellite television, the fax machine and the Internet — hasten the narrowing of cultural differences. Not everything novel comes from the

Continued on Page 4



In Beijing: not made in America.



Cambodia, too, has a growing consumer society that is supplied more or less locally; a monk drinks cola of uncertain origin.

For Africa's Dictators, No Exit Is Graceful

By HOWARD W. FRENCH

FOR weeks now, drawn as if by a sordid but captivating piece of theater, Africa and much of the world have watched the power of Mobutu Sese Seko, the continent's longest reigning dictator, slip like sand through his fingers.

After more than three decades of solitary power, at age 68 the once arrogant dictator is now visibly dying of prostate cancer, his body withering in pace with his failing hold on Zaire. Mr. Mobutu is said to be mentally sharp, but he can barely stand. In name he is President still, but his writ scarcely extends beyond this city surrounded by rebels who have advanced across Africa's third-largest country, chasing a national army that loots but almost never fights.

But obscured by the drama is a larger struggle taking place across Africa between the two types of politics prevalent on the continent, one old and one new.

The old model was exemplified by Mr. Mobutu, a man who appropriated for himself the title of marshal, openly presumed to rule for life, and may yet succeed, even if he must drag his country down with him. The



Associated Press



Kousser

Zairians cheer a rebel, above. A bank note with President Mobutu Sese Seko's image lies discarded.

other, democratic, is still in its infancy, but taking root throughout much of Africa.

For a reminder that the dictator mode still holds ample sway, one had to look no farther last week than the clubby central African summit that Mr. Mobutu attended in Libreville, Gabon. Gathered around the ailing Zairian in his leopard-skin cap were other leaders like the host, Omar Bongo, installed by France as President of Gabon in 1968, and Teodoro Obiang Nguema, of Equatorial Guinea, who just last year rigged his way to a 99 percent election victory.

Each of these men seems as determined to stay in power as Mr. Mobutu was, and the best concession they were able to wrest from him was a commitment not to be a candidate in any future vote. Needless to say, Zaire's rebels, led by Laurent Kabila, a lifelong opponent of Mr. Mobutu who stands poised to capture Kinshasa, were not appeased.

For growing numbers of African intellectuals, Mr. Mobutu's dictator peers — and the foreign powers that have long indulged or supported them — would do well to study the lesson of his demise by armed insurrection: Block democratic political change, and eventually you will be violently swept away.

History Shows Cheaters Win

"Watching Zaire, you become very pessimistic," said Aliou Diallo, a diplomat from Guinea who heads the United Nations Development Program here. "There are a bunch of Zaires in miniature all around the continent, led by people who can win elections only by cheating and following a strategy just like Mobutu of 'après moi, le déluge.'"

While African governments where competitive elections have been held are more numerous than dictatorships for the first time in history, candidates for violent change — leaders who bar the way to peaceful opposition — are still strung across the continent. From tiny Togo to Nigeria, Cameroon and Kenya, they cling grimly to power, attacking critics and changing electoral codes according to their own whims.

Even under the harshest of these regimes, opposition groups have emerged. But under the weight of steady repression, civil society remains weak, leaving despairing populations to place their faith in people who offer rapid change, often by arms.

"What we have seen in Zaire, Cameroon, Kenya and a number of other places is that the longer a dictator's rule lasts, the more the political class fractures," said Michael Chege, a Kenyan scholar and director of African studies at the University of Florida. "Then along comes a man like Mr. Kabila, offering to finish off the dictator. The Kabilas are popular not because they are

Continued on Page 3

Accidental Public Policy Winners lose and losers win in the great orphanage debate.

By Nina
Bernstein

4

Traffic Tie-ups As automobiles proliferate, massive traffic problems are becoming the norm.

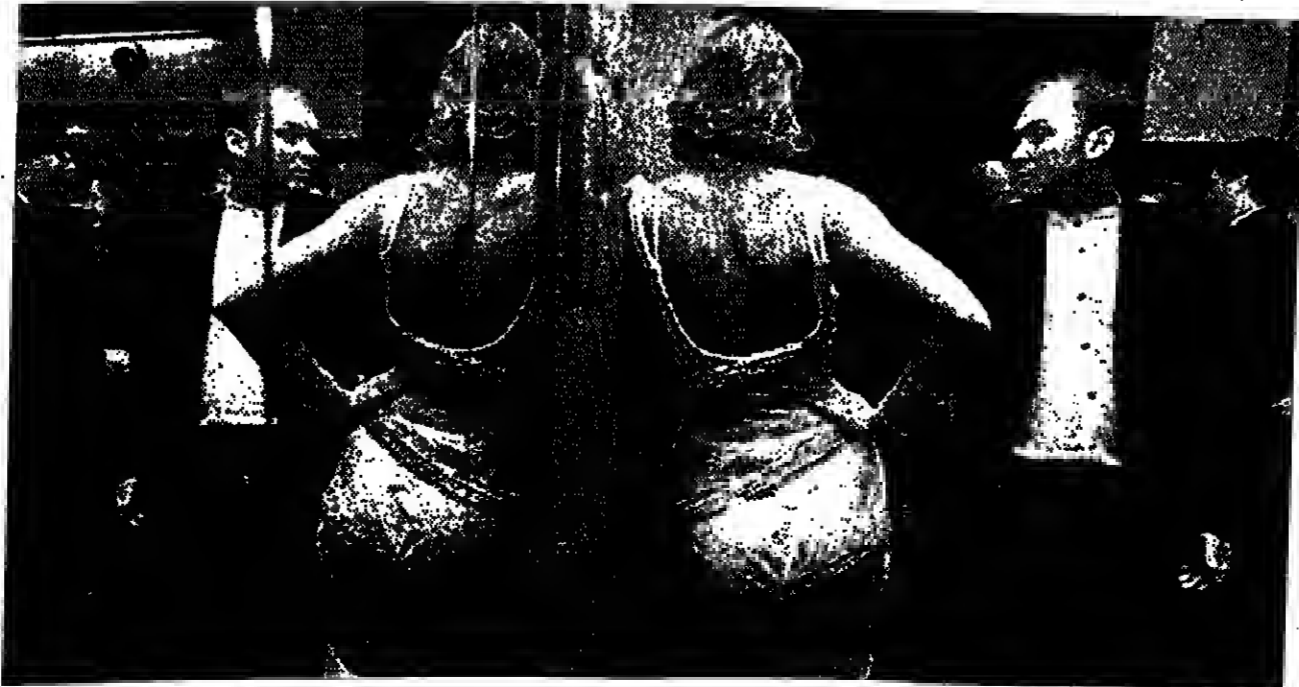
By Keith Bradsher

3

The New New Russian Woman Communism proclaimed sexual equality. Democracy brings a feminine mystique.

By Alessandra Stanley Photographs by Jason Eskenazi

2



The World

Democracy in Russia: Women's Lib Is Just Cosmetic

By ALESSANDRA STANLEY

GLIMPSED on a street corner or subway, even the prettiest Russian girl looks severe, sullen or remote. Catch a Russian woman receiving guests at home, or at a party, and the transformation is almost hallucinatory. A stone-faced matron just back from the tractor assembly line will don a frilly frock, push her swollen feet into high heels and smile as she forces cucumbers, blini and vodka down a visitor's throat. A young girl will flirt, her mother will coddle and scold, and both will serve guests, particularly male ones, with traditional Asian deference.

The duality within Russian women is startling and, even in Moscow, the most cosmopolitan and affluent of Russian cities, inescapable. Seventy years of socialism, with its cramped communal apartments, work collectives, company-sponsored group vacations and constant surveillance and snitching, tore away a sense of privacy. Russian women created their own make-shift screens of privacy in public places — the glazed look of weary indifference.

Even today, privacy remains an unimagined luxury for most Russians. Women who share kitchens and bathrooms with strangers do not make a strong distinction between home and the outside world. In parks, on buses, in the mirrors of office buildings or theater foyers, they serenely and un-self-consciously apply makeup and tease their hair. Necessity is the mother of uninhibitedness. Public bathrooms are rare, and the few that exist come without mirrors, sinks, paper or even toilet seats.

The grand experiment called Communism was supposed to blur individuality and spawn a New Man, but it mostly forged a New Woman. Soviet society empowered women to work outside the home, then dou-

bled their load, forcing them to hold down jobs and still take care of the children, the house and the bureaucratic tangles of everyday survival. Men were left free to live as slaves: childlike irresponsibility at home and total dependence on the state.

Six years on, democracy has brought economic opportunity to some, havoc for most, but so far it has done little to change the basic way men and women relate. Despite, or perhaps because of, 70 years of state propaganda about the equality of sexes, men and women here cling tenaciously to extreme sexual stereotypes. Women work like oxen to provide for their men and children, and still pride themselves on maintaining an extravagant form of femininity.

Femme Fatale Attraction

Women eagerly greeted the Western beauty products that flooded the market once the Soviet Union collapsed. Young or old, rich or poor, Russian women now spend a considerable amount of their disposable income on shampoos, depilatories, cosmetics and clothes. They have mostly ignored the kind of understatement and comfort now fashionable in the West. J. Crew is not a popular look in Moscow; the ideal is Nolan Miller, who designed the femme fatale clothes worn by Joan Collins in "Dynasty."

They eschew natural-looking blond highlights for vivid henna and improbable gold tresses. Lipstick is red, foundation is thick, eyeliner is black and luxuriant. Even in the parliament, where the dull gray business of government goes on, female employees can be seen wearing spangly cocktail dresses. Pants are unthinkable.

Secretaries do not wear tennis shoes on the long walk and subway ride to work; they wear high-heeled pumps. Middle-aged matrons who scrape by on miserly salaries or pensions wouldn't dream of wearing leisure suits or slacks to take their grandchildren to the park or to the circus when they can wear

suits and dresses. They are, in part, still rebelling against a Communist system that tried to ban frivolity and strictly limited consumer goods. But women also expect to be treated as women.

And future generations are being programmed the same way. In state schools, little girls wear dresses and hair ribbons to kindergarten. By junior high school, boys do woodworking and car repair, and girls take sewing and cooking classes. Teachers reprimand children who try to cross over. Last week the Yeltsin administration formed a commission to investigate the dearth of women in high Government office, then appointed a man, deputy prime minister Oleg Syusuyev, to lead it.

Courtship in Russia is dizzyingly romantic and atavistic: There is no such thing as a Dutch treat. Men open doors, light cigarettes and do all the driving. Women wear tons of makeup, perfume and high heels and expect and receive candy, flowers, gifts, poetry and lavish compliments from their admirers. All of that usually comes to a shuddering halt as soon as the wedding is over.

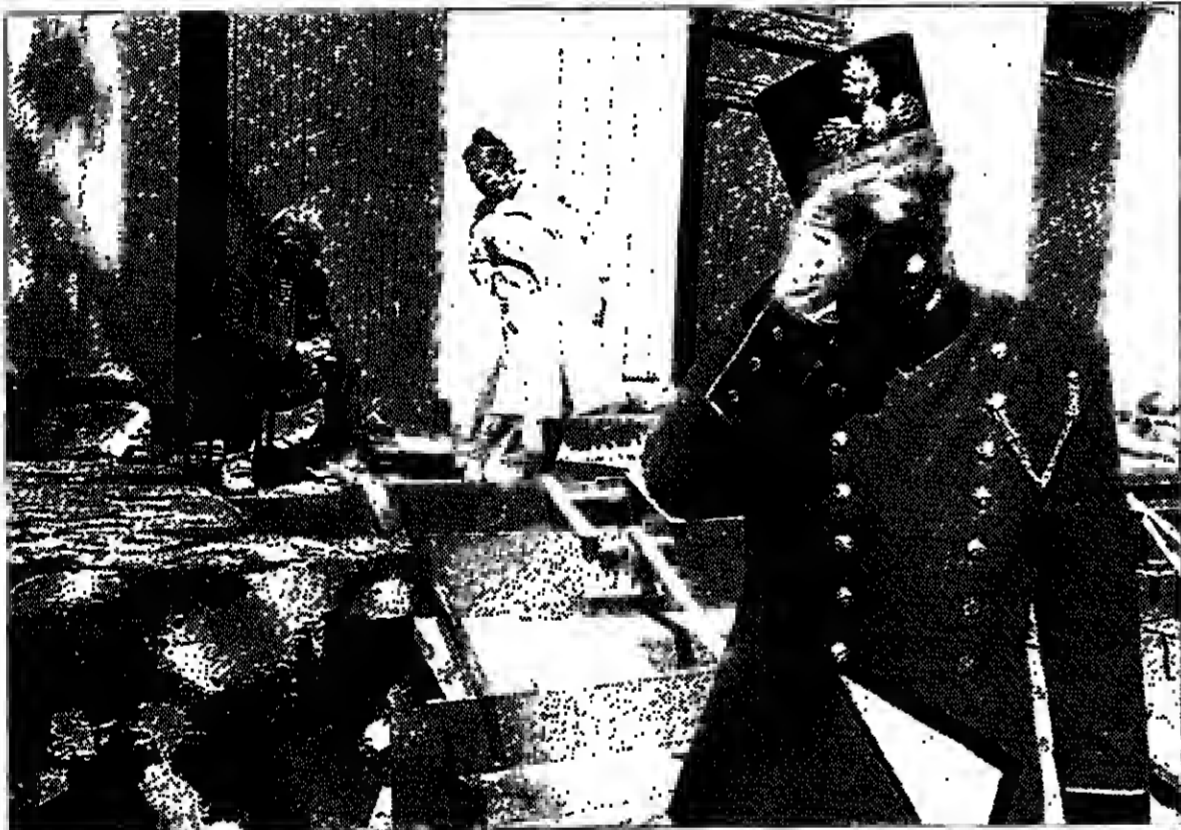
Youth ends abruptly. Women endure, complain and nurture. Men muddle through on vodka. Even women with husbands operate like single mothers, relying on their own mothers for child care and help around the house. Women form tight bonds with their female friends and neighbors, but their friendships are based as much on commiseration and mutual assistance as on compatibility.

Back on crowded streets, you can see grown Russian women walking hand in hand. Their faces, however, are once again wearing the mask of weary indifference. They are asserting their right to be alone.

Photographs by
JASON ESKENAZI



NEVSKY PROSPECT METRO STATION, ST. PETERSBURG



CAMPAIGN STOP, MOSCOW



NOBILITY BALL, MOSCOW



REVOLUTION SQUARE, MOSCOW



TRAM TO SOKOL METRO STOP, MOSCOW



PARK, ST. PETERSBURG

The World

In the Biggest, Booming Cities, A Car Population Problem

By KEITH BRADSHAW

THE markets that most excite the world's auto makers these days are not in the United States, Japan or Germany, but in cities like this.

It is impossible to find a parking space here, and the daily traffic jams last for hours. Ambulances with lights flashing and sirens waiting sit motionless in the gridlock, the drivers around them either disturbed or surprised. Nobody moves. Nobody can. So what are auto makers doing about the problem? They are racing to build more cars here as quickly as possible.

There are already 4.5 million cars in São Paulo, more than twice the 2.1 million in New York City, which has about as many people. The number here is rising by about 1,000 a day. Local auto factories operate up to 23 hours a day, and most of the world's major auto makers are scrambling to build additional factories in Brazil and next door in Argentina.

São Paulo's experience is becoming the rule among sprawling third world cities. In Cairo, pollution from endless traffic jams is threatening the Sphinx. In Bangkok, it takes three to six hours to drive to the airport, and entrepreneurs sell tiny personal toilets for use in cars. And in these and other large cities in the developing world, the widespread use of leaded gasoline is said to stunt the average child's mental development by several I.Q. points.

Moving to Town

Traffic problems have become much worse in developing countries for several reasons. They tend to have fast-growing populations combined with heavy migration from rural areas into cities. The result is

vast metropolises like São Paulo, which has tripled in population in the last 20 years without building many new roads.

At the same time, many more people are becoming able to afford cars, even though, because of heavy taxes, they cost slightly more here than identical models in the United States. Economies in Latin America have grown twice as fast in the 1990's as in the

São Paulo gets 1,000 new autos a day, but rarely a new road. In Bangkok, the airport can be six hours away.

1980's, while growth has also accelerated in East Asia. Here and elsewhere, millions of commuters are abandoning overcrowded subways and buses to sit in traffic.

All this enthusiasm for new cars has produced an extraordinary boom in auto factory construction, not only here but in India, China and other developing countries. Over the next three years, three-quarters of the new auto factories being completed around the world will be in emerging markets. The new factories will have the capacity to produce as many cars and trucks each year as Germany does now.

Auto makers do have a solution for the traffic problems of developing countries, and it does not involve car pools or public transportation. They want more highways. São Paulo sprawls like Los Angeles but has very few highways, partly because old neighbor-

hoods have had the political muscle to avoid being bulldozed. With the main avenues usually clogged with cars, residents travel many miles across town by barreling through an endless maze of back streets.

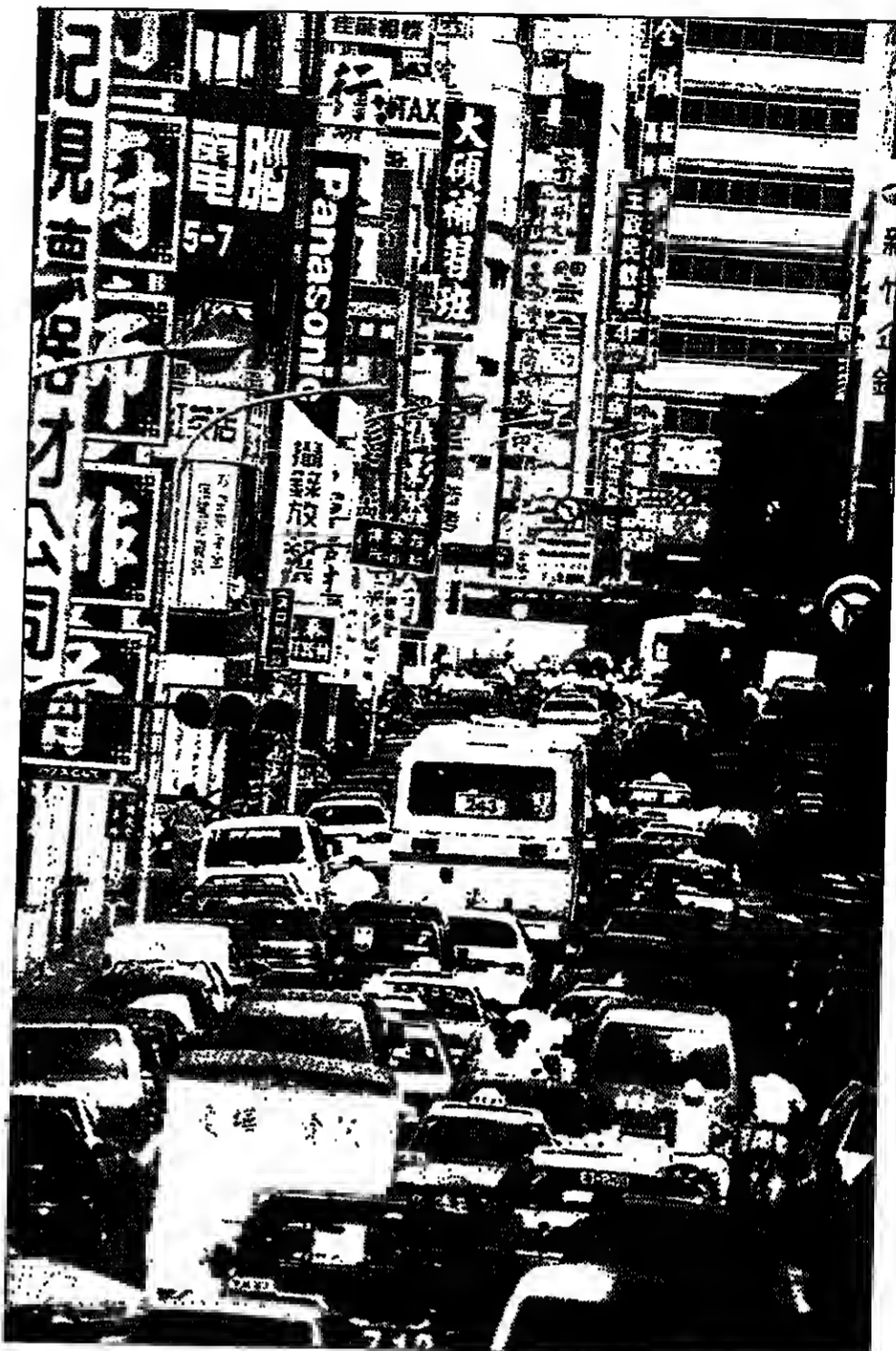
Demand for Highways

But as ever more people buy cars, the pressure to build highways is rising. "The taxpayer will force the state to do something," predicted André Beer, the executive vice president of General Motors of Brazil.

A few more affluent cities in developing countries have adopted the latest traffic management technology. Buenos Aires, the world's 12th largest city, has just installed fully automatic toll booths along the Pan American Highway. Drivers buy magnetic debit cards and glue them to their front windows; when they drive through the booths, slowing to about 10 miles an hour but not actually stopping, sensors detect the cards and automatically deduct the toll from the driver's account.

Yet the fastest-growing cities in the developing world are in the countries least able to afford such wizardry. The United Nations forecasts that Buenos Aires will drop out of its list of the world's 15 biggest metropolitan areas in a few years. Even São Paulo, roughly tied with New York now in the U.N. listings as the world's second largest after Tokyo, will probably be overtaken in the next two decades by four impoverished cities growing even more rapidly: Bombay, Lagos, Shanghai and Jakarta. All four already have terrible traffic problems.

As auto makers expand their operations in the third world, even their executives are not immune to the traffic problem. Ivan Silva, the president of Ford Brazil, beats the traffic by arriving at work by 7:10 every morning. In the evening, he waits until 7:30 to go home. And each year, the traffic gets worse.



Taipei, Taiwan, just one city where the traffic never sleeps.

Anxious in Australia

Blaming It All on 'Them'



The Australian politician Pauline Hanson, who wants to end native land rights, visited Katherine Gorge, which aborigines own.

By CLYDE H. FARNSWORTH

IN a new Australian film, "The Castle," a little guy stands up to big business and big government as they try to force him from his jerry-built house to make room for an airport expansion. He reacts with disbelief, then anger, then depression, but finally he achieves victory and saves his home.

The popularity of "The Castle" is tapping the frustration and insecurity of Australians who feel their place in the world threatened by Asian investment and immigration, the increasing influence of the global economy and, in the country's vast rural areas, their own Government's concessions to aborigine land claims.

The anxiety has taken on a life of its own in a furious surge of populism recalling Australia's long history of excluding non-white immigrants, which ended only a generation ago. The Labor Party's drive for economic and social integration with Asia, over its 13 years in power that ended in 1996 with the election of Prime Minister John Howard, has reaped a oativist reaction.

"There is a new deal in town — a fair deal for all Australians, and a deal that puts Australians and Australians' interest first," says the flag bearer for Down Under disaffection, Pauline Hanson, who owned a fish-and-chips shop near Brisbane before winning election to Parliament last year.

Mrs. Hanson, who ran as an Independent, now has formed her own political party, One Nation. A recent poll in The Sydney Morning Herald found that one in four voters would consider voting for it.

Her visioo is set forth in a book, "Pauline Hanson — The Truth," co-written by unnamed authors, that claims that aborigines ate their own infants and older tribe members and that United Nations bureaucrats

control Australia. In 50 years, the book predicts, the country will be home to 1.8 billion Asians and will be ruled by a "cyborg-lesbian-Chinese-Indian."

Australians, it says, are victims of "new class elites" pursuing "a new religion of internationalism — anti-white racism, multiculturalism, feminism and Astanization."

If such statements endeared the One Nation party to some voters, particularly in rural Queensland, where "redneck" isn't necessarily an insult, aborigines, Muslims, Chinese and others were outraged.

Native Land Rights

Several anthropologists protested that there are no credible accounts of organized aboriginal cannibalism. Students at the University of Technology in Sydney objected that a political party pursuing Mrs. Hanson's ideas about aborigines would "continue the genocide of indigenous people and their culture."

Public and private school teachers in New South Wales issued a statement likening the claims to Nazi propaganda against Jews and other minorities.

The surge of extremism coincides with aborigines' success in regaining land taken by colonists or winning compensation for it. While less than 2 percent of the population, aborigines are a larger presence in rural townships, and racial tensions are common.

In 1992 the Supreme Court upheld a claim of indigenous land rights by an aborigine, Eddie Mabo, overturning the settlement's original doctrine that the land belonged to no one before Europeans arrived. The ruling meant that under certain conditions — for example, if traditional links to the land had been maintained — aborigines could claim native title.

More than 500 land claims are before a Government tribunal, where the adjudication process could produce results ranging from financial payments to compensation

allowing aborigines passage across land.

But angry farmers, ranchers and mining companies, who hold 42 percent of Australia's land under long-term leases, want Prime Minister Howard's coalition Government to enact a law erasing the native land rights. Mrs. Hanson has enthusiastically taken up their cause, and rural members of the coalition see their political future in danger if the Government doesn't bow.

Yet if the Government does, aboriginal leaders say, they will urge international boycotts of farm produce and the Sydney 2000 Olympics and take their concerns to the United Nations.

Immigration is another hot issue for the new populists. With the unemployment rate at 8.7 percent for eight consecutive months, many Australians worry about competition for already-scarce jobs. In polls, two-thirds of those surveyed say immigration levels are too high, even though they are nearly 30 percent below the peak reached in the late 1980's.

While legal immigration rose to 99,139 in the last fiscal year, from 87,428 the year before, at current rates Asians, now less than 5 percent of Australia's population of 18 million, would be only 7.5 percent in 30 years.

Fringe parties are hardly new to Australia. Most are at the far right and have patriotic names like Australia First. Some are single issue: a Shooters Party fights gun controls. Do the Hansonites have enough appeal to become a political force?

Many political scientists doubt it. Bob Catley, a former Parliament member who is a professor at the University of Adelaide, said most Australians balk at supporting extremist parties. "We have two moderate political parties, one at the moderate right, the Liberals, and the other at the moderate left, Labor," he said. "People shout at them, object to them, hate them, revile them. But

No Exit Is Graceful For Africa's Dictators

Continued From Page 1

knights in shining armor," he said, "but because they stand out as the best of a bad lot."

For many intellectuals and human-rights advocates, would-be liberators like Mr. Kabila are a mixed blessing at best. They offer the prospect of toppling men like Mr. Mobutu, who enrich themselves while ruining their countries, but Mr. Kabila and guerrilla leaders in general have scarcely better credentials as democrats.

Alone, Mr. Chege said, civilian opposition movements are often powerless to force meaningful democratic concessions from entrenched dictators. Foreign powers could play a critical supporting role, he said, but for commercial or political reasons, Western powers maintain normal, even supportive, relations with most of these countries.

"The international community should be thinking of speeding the demise of the African big man before disaster arrives," Mr. Chege said. "Instead, they cling to the myth of stability under the all-powerful leader. In reality, the institutions decay so much under this type of leadership that it

just takes a little push to bring about a change."

Western diplomats typically respond that African problems must have African solutions, adding that it is not for them as outsiders, however powerful, to pick and choose the continent's leaders.

For many Africans that sounds like a sudden and convenient conversion after decades during which outsiders did nothing but that. Washington, they observe, helped establish Mr. Mobutu's power at the height of the cold war, and the United States, France and Belgium repeatedly intervened to keep their man in office, insisting that be alone could hold Zaire together.

"The dictator who has enjoyed the support of the West, even in the past, is a hard-headed dictator," said Guillaume Ngefa Atankonde, head of the Zairian Association of Human Rights. "The choice for the West is not supporting a dictator like Mobutu or supporting a rebellion like Kabila — let them show enough interest and commitment to Africa to denounce dictators and support democratic processes, and a lot of crises can be averted. Africans will take care of the rest."

In, Damned Spot!

ZEBRA never quite made the cut. Soake has had its good years and bad. Ostrich? Only the frivolous have made that skin work. But leopard lives on.

Whether it is the real thing — as favored by Mobutu Sese Seko, the teetering President of Zaire — or fabric, leopard is a fashion commodity: you can always find it in your price range.

On the banquettes of restaurants, on ottomans in homes politely referred to as eclectic and on the backs of the chic and tacky alike, leopard endures.

Jayne Mansfield wore a leopard-skin bikini decades ago. Glenn Close donned faux leopard housecoats in her Broadway turn in "Sunset Boulevard." Many wives of heads of state have ventured out in spotted capes or hats. Most wear prints since about half of the 20 odd species of leopard today are endangered.

Nicole Fischelis, the fashion director for Saks Fifth Avenue, believes leopard

owes its enduring commercial success to its versatility. "There is just something classic about it, what we call animal magnetism," Ms. Fischelis said. "It can be sophisticated, as in a long chiffon dress, or whimsical, like in a handbag."

But some choices have been unfortunate. The leopard legging was rarely a good thing, and anything large and draping can be positively baronial.

Every year, at least one designer sends leopard down the catwalk.

Yves Saint Laurent tried out leopard-patterned dresses and scarves in 1986. Last fall he showed a leopard dress. "He always has it in the collection," Ms. Fischelis said. "For him it is almost a statement." Gianni Versace offered leopard pants in 1991, and Dolce and Gabbana featured the fabric in their shows last year.

But far from the runway is one of the animal's most loyal fans, Mr. Mobutu, whose three decades in power in Zaire are coming to a bitter end. He has worn his trademark leopard-skin hat almost from the beginning. His love of leopard, he says, dates from a childhood stroll he took with his great uncle and grandfather that was interrupted by the frightful sight of a leopard lurking in a tree. By pursuing the animal, Mr. Mobutu says, he learned to be fearless.

Some fashion insiders have seen enough spots. "I like it in pillows, and I like it in a shoe," said Polly Mellon, creative director of Allure magazine. "I'm a little sick of it in clothes. I think it would be refreshing if the designers could come up with some oew alternatives. Right now, I prefer python."

JENNIFER STEINHAUER



Fearless leader hat.

The Nation

What's Wrong With This Picture? (Too Much Green)

By JOEL BRINKLEY

It has the look of a classic Washington power struggle. But the titans in this battle seem to have forgotten about a huge group of people who will be directly affected by the outcome: 100 million American households that may be forced to buy expensive new digital television sets or converter boxes by the year 2006.

Last month the broadcast-television industry persuaded the Government to give every television station in the nation a second channel. Under the terms of the agreement, the 1,600 new channels — extraordinarily valuable parcels of electromagnetic real estate — were given on loan until the year 2006, to facilitate the transition to digital, high-definition television.

Just a few days later, however, the squabbling began all over again. The National Association of Broadcasters began lobbying to keep this valuable property even longer. And Senator John McCain, the Arizona Republican who heads the Commerce Committee, complained that the broadcasters were being greedy. "They made an agreement to give it back in 2006," he said. "If they were unable to do so, they should have said so to begin with." Then he introduced a bill to force the issue. If it passes, the broadcasters will have to return the channels nine years from now. Then the channels would be auctioned, turned over to mobile communications companies or others for new uses. And the proceeds from the sales would be used to balance the budget.

What About My Tube?

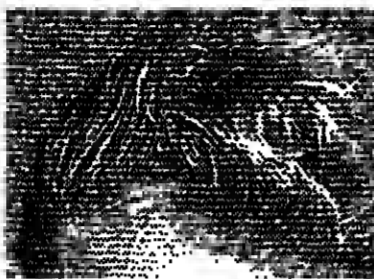
But where does this leave the television audience? The plan to loan out all these television channels was originally supposed to be for the benefit of the public, not the broadcasters. The idea was to aid the development of high-definition television, which will offer stunningly sharp pictures on an extra-wide screen. But if the channels are going to be returned in 2006, tens of millions of Americans are likely to be hopping mad.

The only television programs that would be left on the air would be on the new digital channels. And that means that only people

I Want My HDTV

The brave new world of digital television will offer viewers crystal-clear pictures nearly six times as sharp as today's images, on widescreen sets with a width-to-height ratio of 16 to 9, rather than the 4-to-3 ratio of current televisions. And new

digital TV signals will be broadcast with six-channel "surround sound" like that in movie theaters. High-definition television sets are expected to cost \$2,500 and up when they are introduced in 1998, but prices should drop quickly.



Source: NHK

The New York Times

who had bought digital televisions, or converter boxes, would be able to watch. By then, more than likely, millions of people will already have bought them. But millions of others will not, and they are not likely to be complacent about having to junk their old analog televisions and buy new digital sets.

How did television's big plans for the 21st century get so contorted?

Back in 1992, the Federal Communications Commission was managing a high-stakes race among four corporate contestants who were each developing high-definition television systems. The Commission said it would choose a winner and this system would be selected as the standard for the next generation of American television. Under the F.C.C.'s plan, the winning system was to be

broadcast digitally on the new television channels while stations continued to broadcast conventional television on the old ones.

Eventually, though, the four contestants combined forces in the "Grand Alliance." And last December, their combined digital, high-definition television system was selected as the standard for the country's next generation of television.

The consumers' role in this transition was originally fairly clear. Over a period of years, it was supposed, consumers would gradually replace their old sets with new digital models. Then at the end of the transition period — originally set at 15 years — the digital channels would continue and the analog ones would be turned off.

In 1992, the F.C.C. had decided on a 15-year

transition period because televisions normally do not last any longer than that. Surely, in the natural course of things, nearly all of the 240 million televisions in use across the country — 2.5 of them on average in every home — would have been replaced over that period. And almost no consumers would be forced to buy a new set before they were ready.

And so the race for high-definition television proceeded apace and no one paid much attention to it until about 1994. That was when the Clinton Administration discovered spectrum auctions. Before that, pieces of the television spectrum were given out free. But then Washington discovered that businesses would pay billions of dollars for these pieces of the airwaves.

Suddenly the second channels that were being loaned out to broadcasters looked like gifts from the Government. That was why the Clinton Administration decided that the broadcasters should return them far sooner than originally planned. They are to be auctioned in 2002 — in time for the proceeds to be counted in the Administration's seven-year balanced budget plan. And the buyers would take possession of the channels in 2006, when all those that are now in use would go off the air.

Digital television service on broadcast stations in the nation's largest cities is scheduled to begin on the second channels in the fall of 1998; other digital stations will go on the air over the following three years. (It's unclear whether cable and direct-broadcast satellite subscribers will be able to receive this new programming.) And all the analog channels are scheduled to go off the air as of 2006. Under the Government's new plan, the transition period has been shortened from 15 years to eight.

That means the 100 million American homes that have one or more televisions will be expected to replace all of them within an eight-year period — like it or not. The new technology will offer sharp pictures on a new, wide screen. And the televisions will be interactive, like a computer. But they will also be expensive: at least \$2,500 each at the beginning, though the price is certain to fall. No one knows what converter boxes will cost; they haven't been designed yet. But estimates have ranged from \$50 to \$300.

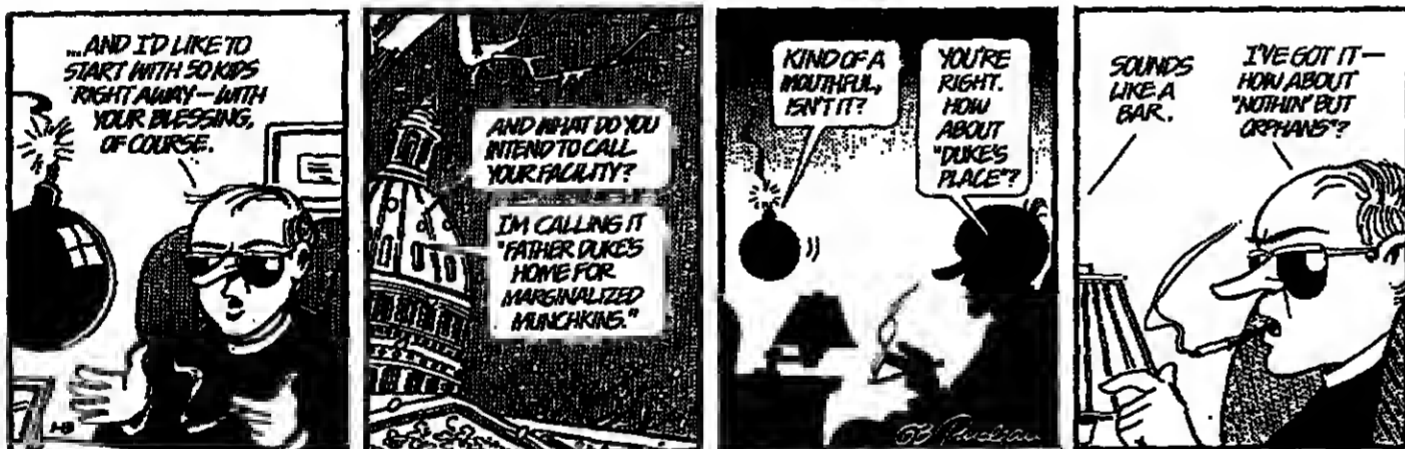
Not So Fast

Even if digital TV prices crash through the floor, it's unlikely that all the nation's households will have made the change by 2006. Eight years after black-and-white televisions first went on sale, only about half the population had bought them. Eight years after color televisions went on sale, fewer than 2 percent of American homes had them.

For now, this debate is not at the center of the American public's attention. But that will probably change in a big way eight years from now, when Americans see that Government intends to render all of the nation's remaining analog televisions obsolete in the stroke of midnight one day in 2006.

Orphanages, Inc.

The High Cost of No Intentions



A January 1995 "Doonesbury" comic strip poked fun at the notion of for-profit child care.

By NINA BERNSTEIN

THE orphanage has come back to haunt the welfare debate. Freud might have called it the return of the repressed.

Shortly before Christmas of 1994, Speaker Newt Gingrich provoked a national uproar by championing a bill that would have let states use Federal welfare money for orphanages. The critics invoked Charles Dickens. Mr. Gingrich countered with "Boys Town," the 1938 movie starring Spencer Tracy. Political cartoonists had a field day, and by the time President Clinton denounced the plan as "dead wrong," Mr. Gingrich was protesting that he had been misunderstood.

If that was the Great Orphanage Debate, orphanages, it seemed, had lost. But the underlying question was unresolved: What would happen to children whose parents lost welfare and couldn't support a family?

Now it turns out that a multibillion-dollar answer lurks in the details of the sweeping welfare law signed last year: Modern day orphanages, run for profit at Government expense.

That this took place without a murmur illustrates a rarely acknowledged truth about national policy: much of it happens while Congress is busy making other plans. Often it is the sum of incremental changes won by interested parties without fanfare, but with huge consequences.

Care for Sale

In this case, through the quiet efforts of a small company with a troubled history, the word "nonprofit" was deleted from an old section of child welfare law. Because of that tiny change, companies selling institutional care for profit, like managed mental health care corporations and youth care chains traded on Wall Street, can now compete for unlimited Federal child welfare payments. Before the change — ultimately made in an amendment sponsored by Senator John B. Breaux, a Louisiana Democrat — only foster families or nonprofit child care institutions could get the money, which is to

During the first orphanage brouhaha, about the only mention of profit-making orphanages was in Garry Trudeau's "Doonesbury" strip, and child welfare experts like the conservative scholar Douglas J. Besharov of the American Enterprise Institute dismissed the whole orphanage issue as a red herring.

"Agencies already have trouble caring for the 450,000 children now in their custody," Mr. Besharov wrote in a New York Times Op-Ed article. "Add over a million new 'orphans' and we'll have a oesw social crisis." He estimated that if only a tenth of the children on welfare went into group care, Federal spending would reach \$70 billion within 20 years, and that surely "a new Republican Congress would recoil at spending so much to create a new Government bureaucracy."

But those legislators who noticed the one-

Congress deleted the word 'nonprofit,' and business moved in.

word change did not recoil. In the midst of historic debates over a bill that dismantled six decades of poverty policy, this small alteration passed without comment. It had been presented by companies that stood to benefit as a minor step on the privatization highway, rather than as the expansion of an open-ended Federal aid program — one already growing five times faster than Aid to Families with Dependent Children and costing the Government 11 times more for each child.

Given the notorious failures of the current foster care system, it is not hard to understand the allure of businesses that promise efficiency, economies of scale and rising stock prices, too. But in the scandal-ridden rise of other publicly financed, for-profit industries, like nursing homes and psychiatric hospital chains, the for-profit advantage has often proved illusory.

wards is government, and by all accounts, its record of oversight is poor. At least 21 states, including New York and California, have been sued for failing to enforce minimal standards in the residential care they purchase for children in their custody.

"Poor children are so totally helpless that everything about them can be determined by the marketplace, without any regard to their best interest," said Marcia Lowry, director of Children's Rights Inc., a national nonprofit legal and advocacy organization. "They are a wonderful commodity for business, government, people who want to push them in any direction to serve their own interest."

There is an 85-year-old national consensus that children should not be taken from their families because of poverty alone, but the balance of Federal policy keeps shifting in the other direction. In an effort to speed adoptions, for example, two new bills in Congress would make it easier to terminate parental rights.

Children living with a parent, no matter how poor, can no longer count on government help. But the same children, if placed in an institution or foster home, carry with them an open-ended stream of Federal revenue covering up to 75 percent of the cost of food, shelter, clothing, supervision, administration and case management. This year's appropriation for such support is \$3.8 billion.

Opening the money to for-profit child care institutions guarantees a rapid increase in supply, says Mark E. Courtney, a scholar at the University of Wisconsin's Institute for Research on Poverty. Yet research documents the detrimental effects of institutions on young children — those most affected by the end of A.F.D.C.

In the zeal to end adult welfare dependency, Mr. Courtney said, Americans prefer to forget that A.F.D.C. originated as a child well-being program.

"Children who are put in harm's way by program changes or program sanctions will not spontaneously appear at the doors of 'orphanages' or other out-of-home care settings," Mr. Courtney said. "Many if not most poor parents will attempt to raise their children by any means necessary."

The Un-American Ugly Americans

Continued From Page 1

West, even if most of these now-universal fashions were first popularized in richer Western countries. If trends are set by Japan, this is because the Japanese were the first to break into the top ranks of technology and trade, not only in the region but also worldwide. Others will follow in other regions.

An American diplomat said he was struck by this trend when a Korean radical wearing jeans and smoking an American cigarette lectured him on the perverse effects of American influence. Many Southeast Asians have abandoned traditional costumes for business suits not because Western business people dress that way but because the Japanese and Taiwanese do.

And Karaoke, Too

Take a walk in Phnom Penh almost any time of day, and there will be children sitting on the high stools of video-game parlors where the bloodthirsty fare is Japanese-produced. Express boats on Borneo's rivers show Asian-made films in which heroes kick around the faces of bad guys without even smudging their Italian shoes. In the remote Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, where television receivers are not allowed, the police blamed videotapes from Hong Kong, with their very slick and sociopathic violence, when a Buddhist abbot was murdered a few years ago by local criminals who planned to steal an unlocked temple's treasures.

All over South Asia, middle-class parents worry about the hugely prolific Indian popular film industry with its debased or caricatured women and those silk-shirted toughs living glamorous lives. As for karaoke and what it has done to traditional forms of local entertainment, the less said the better.

"I do believe that mindless imitation of Western patterns of development is an exceedingly serious problem, but you have to accept the responsibility for the fact that this can't happen unless the elite wants it," said Palagummi Sainath, author of "Everybody Loves a Good Drought," a sharp critique of government and the establishment in India, based on his reporting from some of the poorest villages in the country.

"It's a simplification to reduce everything to the word 'Westernization,' and a bit foolish to make the argument that anything and everything that comes from the West is bad," said Mr. Sainath, who added that his most influential and respected teachers in Madras were European Jesuits. "Millions of things have moved both ways over the centuries which we all live with and are comfortable with."

"What I see is something different," said Mr. Sainath. "The super-rich are seceding from their nations. So what you have is not a Western or East Asian or Southeast Asian or Chinese model. We are building enclaves of super-privilege. What you're having is not a global village but a series of global ghettos. The Western elite is not the sole villain."

falling out with the country's leader, Lee Kuan Yew, and with his conservative "Asian values." Mr. Seow went to jail for his outspokenness. Politicians, and a range of activists struggling to keep alive old third-world causes, continue to demonize the West. The Burmese military junta, now under an investment embargo by the Clinton Administration, is waging a strong anti-Western campaign in the Government-controlled media.

"Singapore leaders tend to speak smugly of their values as if they are an exclusive preserve of Asian countries," Mr. Seow said. "I have personally seen American children who love and are respectful of their parents and elders, and I am told that in the heartland of America — the real America — these values are the norm rather than the exception."

Many Asian-Americans resent Asian leaders talking about Asian values as much as they object to Americans stereotyping Asians as invulnerable overachievers. "The Lee Kuan Yew talk as if there were an Asia that is homogeneous," said Sumit Ganguly, a political scientist at Hunter College of the City University of New York. "As if the steppes of Central Asia were the same as the plains of Bengal and the plains of Bengal the same as the forests of Sarawak."

In the culturally diverse United States, a politician, however attuned to anti-immigration or even anti-Asian sentiment, would not be likely to reach for the words "Easternization" or "Asianization" when immigrant Thais (some of them in the country illegally) are found running a slave-labor operation in southern California or Chinese and Vietnamese gang executions take place in lower Manhattan.

There is a new catchword in the developing world, however, to cover cultural wounds not believed to be strictly Western. Eastern or self-inflicted; the word is globalization. It wraps up all the fears of somehow losing control to foreigners, felt as much by Americans who hate the United Nations and immigrants as it is by Indians or Filipinos who feel threatened by the International Monetary Fund, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Joe Camel or Time Warner. That shrinking world everyone was so proud of a decade or so ago has become a cultural strangler.

India's Elite

Francine Frankel, director of the Center for the Advanced Study of India at the University of Pennsylvania, thinks that fears of globalization are setting the stage for a new anti-Americanism among some elite groups in India, which will be the world's most populous nation sometime early in the next century, because satellite television connects the poor not only to the advertising of goods and life styles (for better or worse) but also to ideas (realistic or not) of self-advancement.

"This is at the center of India's political conflict, this challenge of the disadvantaged classes," Ms. Frankel said. "Unrestricted globalization and the penetration of American culture exacerbates this kind of change. Consumerism is really an expression of egalitarianism. The upper castes see that as

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ECONOMY

It's My Party and I'll Splurge if I Want To

By **GERALDINE FABRIKANT**

BABY boomers are breaking in their 50's at the rate of one every seven seconds, but few are likely to celebrate with as much éclat as Josie Natori, the diminutive sleepwear designer. On Tuesday, May 20, at 7 P.M., Ms. Natori will raise her hands above the ebony and ivory at Carnegie Hall in Manhattan, where Churchill once thundered, Tchaikovsky once wept and Frank Sinatra once crooned, and plunked Schumann's Piano Concerto in A minor for 2,800 of her closest friends.

"I'm chutzpah," giggled the Philippine-born entrepreneur, whose birthday was actually on Friday but who chose May 20 because that is the 25th anniversary of her marriage to Ken Natori, who is also her business partner.

As she talked about the event over lunch in her office at the company's headquarters on East 34th Street, she fiddled endlessly with a yellow wool scarf wrapped casually around her neck — the only visible sign that she might be nervous.

On her big day, Ms. Natori will don a long dress of her own design and take center stage at Carnegie with the member orchestra of St. Luke's, which she has hired to perform for an array of guests including family, friends, customers, invest-

ment bankers and the news media. Ms. Natori has a lot of company among the rich and famous who, in middle age, suddenly decide to enact a fantasy. Maybe the events that were supposed to be milestones in their younger days — their Sweet 16 parties, senior proms, even weddings — lacked pizzazz. Or maybe they just want a rocking good time.

Consider Frank Marshall, the producer of Steven Spielberg's Indiana Jones and Back to the Future films and an amateur magician and guitarist. For his 50th birthday party last October, he invited 500 friends to U.C.L.A.'s 10,000-seat basketball arena to watch him perform.

The extravaganza — the guest list included Goldie Hawn, Kurt Russell, Jeffrey Katzenberg, Michael Ovitz and other Hollywood heavies — centered around music and magic. There were jugglers, fortune tellers, palm readers and even the actor Mark Harmon's celebrity baseball team. Bert Fields, the Hollywood lawyer, backed by the U.C.L.A. marching band, serenaded the birthday boy with a round of "Happy Birthday."

Mr. Marshall even got his buddy Jimmy Buffett to join him in warbling Mr. Buffett's trademark tune, "Margaritaville." But the high point of the gala for Mr. Marshall was a particular magic trick: "You haven't lived till you have sawed someone in half," he said.



Frank Marshall, the Hollywood producer, being hoisted mosh-pit style by revelers at his 50th birthday extravaganza last October.

Make that you haven't lived till you have sawed your better half in half. Mr. Marshall's wife and business partner, Kathleen Kennedy, was the one who succumbed to the blade.

Some people just can't wait until they hit 50 to celebrate themselves. Ethan Perner, who earned \$23 million in 1995 from Nomura Securities, where he oversees real-estate loans, has a weakness for celebrities and has hired Elton John (whose own recent 50th birthday costume ball was festive, to say the least) and the Eagles rock group to entertain clients at business conferences.

So, on his 35th birthday, Mr. Perner's wife and friends gave him the thrill of his life: they paid Wilt Chamberlain and Julius Erving, two of the

"My father was an entrepreneur in the real estate business," she recalled. "My mother and my grandmother both encouraged me to be independent. The Philippines is a very matriarchal and very entrepreneurial society."

NOR did her family mind sending her to New York in 1964, when she was only 17, to study. She enrolled at Manhattanville College in Purchase, N.Y., graduating with honors in economics. From there, she went to Wall Street, opening an office in Manila for Bache & Company before switching to Merrill Lynch and rising there to become the first woman vice president in investment banking.

Nine years of high finance would be enough. By 1977, she had married Ken Natori, a director at Shearson Lehman, and she longed for both the autonomy and the opportunity for self-expression that she believed she could find as an entrepreneur.

"Wall Street lacked an artistic element," she said. "Some people say deals are creative, but I don't know if that's true."

So she visited her native land, looking for products that might be a hit in the United States.

First, and bought a bunch of hand-woven baskets, figuring that she could sell them to big American retail chains. She couldn't. Next she went into Philippine-made blouses, only to be told by a buyer from Bloomingdale's that she ought to make them into nightshirts.

She did, and her business took off.

In 1986, Ken Natori quit Wall Street to join her as chairman, focusing on the financial side. Today, they share an office in their Manhattan headquarters.

From nightshirts, the business expanded into undergarments for women — and her very inexperience in the garment trade gave her an edge, she believes. "When I first came into this business, lingerie was still considered one of two things —

the weekends.

"I really try to concentrate, but last week, I had a very bad week, and Robert had to be on my case. He called all the time to make sure I am practicing." Ms. Natori conceded ruefully. She said she chose the Schumann A minor concerto because it was "romantic and also something I could handle."

When she first got the idea to give a concert, she figured she would invite about 500 people.

But "me and my big mouth, when I saw people, I kept saying, 'Come to the concert,'" she said. Her husband did the same. The list grew.

"I see my life passing in front of my eyes," she said. "All our worlds will be at the concert: Wall Street, fashion" and about 100 family members from the Philippines, Seattle and Japan. (Mr. Natori is Japanese-American.)

"My father doesn't know much about music," she said. "He once began to applaud before the concert was over, but he wants to sit in the front row, and so he will."

Luckily, Ms. Natori can handily afford the event. The Natori Company, which now includes fragrances, generated about \$80 million in sales last year. The price tag for the evening is about \$500,000 — including the ball, the orchestra, the airplane tickets and all the extras. And, as long as the guest list brims with enough clients and business acquaintances, a good chunk of it may well be tax deductible.

Mr. Marshall, the movie producer, did not even want to know how much his party cost. His business manager paid the bills.

"You're only 50 once," he said cheerfully.

"The party sort of started small and then mushroomed into a 50th birthday party reunion. It turned into a celebration of turning 50 for a lot of people," he said. "When I started going through the guest list, I thought, 'I can't invite this person without inviting that person.' Pretty soon the numbers were swelling. It ended up being about 500."

Ms. Natori hit a much higher number, in part because she will be celebrating two events — her birthday and her 1972 wedding, which, with only 70 people attending, was a relatively tiny affair. The night after the concert, the Natoris will renew their vows and hold a dinner for the family.

No one creates such a party for business reasons alone. But it doesn't hurt.

kinky or something your grandmother wears," Ms. Natori once said. She sought to change that. "I treated lingerie like clothes because I didn't know any differently," she recalled. For all her success on Wall Street and on Seventh Avenue, Ms. Natori never forgot music. She continued to play it at parties and attended concerts. Then, in 1994, she became serious about giving a concert as part of her 50th birthday party.

With help from her teacher, Robert DeGaetano, she has been practicing about five or six hours a day on

Baby boomers greet age 50 with big smiles and big parties.

greatest professional basketball players of all time, in the neighborhood of \$35,000 to join Mr. Perner and his pals for a game at Iona College in New Rochelle, N.Y. They played for four hours, and "I really had a great time," he said.

OTHER people celebrate later in life, and in a more sedate fashion. To mark his 60th birthday in January 1994, James Wolfensohn, who then headed his own investment banking boutique and is now president of the World Bank, took over Carnegie Hall, where he entertained about 500 friends by playing the cello with pals including the violinists Isaac Stern and Itzhak Perlman. At that time, Mr. Wolfensohn had already stepped down as chairman of Carnegie Hall.

Certainly, no one undertakes such an effort for business reasons alone. But it doesn't hurt. Ms. Natori's guest list will include notables of the fashion world like Allen J. Questrom, outgoing chairman of Federated Department Stores; Philip B. Miller, chief executive of Saks Fifth Avenue; Michael Gould, chief executive of Bloomingdale's, and James E. Preston, chairman of Avon, which handles Ms. Natori's perfumes. And, of course, there will be a clutch of other designers, including Adrienne Vittadini, Pauline Trigere and Vera Wang.

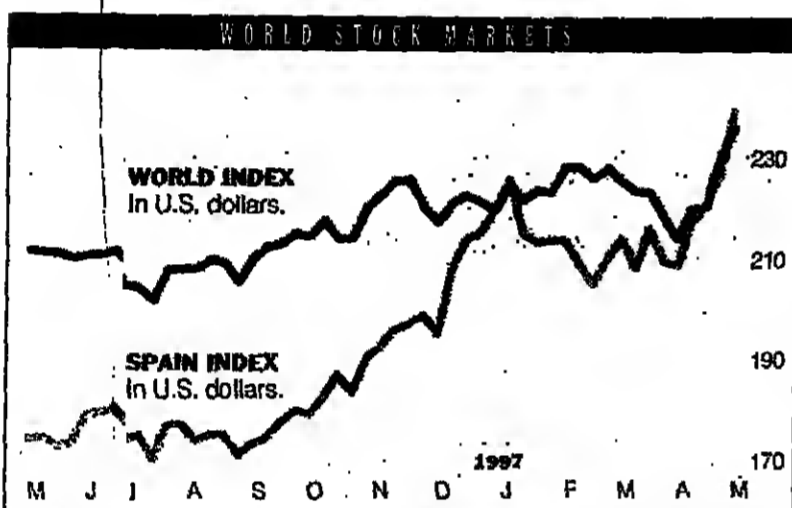
Though Ms. Natori is associated with her ultra-feminine sleepwear and lingerie, she was a piano prodigy in the Philippines, where she had performed before 800 people twice by the time she was 19.

"But I grew up knowing I wanted to be in business," she said. "I never considered music for a minute. I didn't have the temperament."

She also had no qualms about wanting to be self-sufficient.



Elton John, en route to his 50th birthday gala last month.



Prepared by Citicorp, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actual World Indices, a measure of stock market performance. The FT indices are computed jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

Country	PERFORMANCE IN U.S. DOLLARS				IN LOCAL CURR.	
	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	YTD % Chg.
Australia	230.92	1.0	26	4.1	17	3.86
Austria	190.78	5.2	4	0.5	21	1.89
Belgium	246.62	1.2	21	8.3	10	3.36
Brazil	253.07	1.8	17	33.4	1	1.52
Britain	298.40	3.6	12	4.7	13	3.63
Canada	199.59	1.0	25	4.6	15	1.97
Denmark	374.08	3.7	11	6.3	12	1.54
Finland	266.97	2.6	14	8.7	9	1.59
France	221.19	1.2	22	3.3	19	2.88
Germany	210.99	4.8	6	11.1	5	1.52
Hong Kong	494.40	5.5	2	-2.5	22	3.08
Indonesia	236.73	5.8	1	3.7	18	1.55
Ireland	342.24	2.4	15	4.1	16	3.01
Italy	89.44	1.4	19	7.1	11	2.22
Japan	124.65	4.9	5	-3.4	23	0.82
Malaysia	544.42	1.1	24	-9.7	26	1.20
Mexico	385.25	2.6	13	13.6	4	1.21
Netherlands	366.61	3.9	10	9.1	8	2.46
New Zealand	86.97	1.1	23	-5.2	24	4.23
Norway	301.44	2.1	16	2.0	20	2.14
Philippines	159.03	1.4	20	-21.9	27	0.89
Singapore	386.14	4.5	8	-8.0	25	1.10
South Africa	362.50	0.1	27	13.8	3	2.38
Spain	242.07	5.4	3	10.1	7	2.49
Sweden	441.36	4.7	7	4.6	14	2.08
Switzerland	283.51	4.3	9	18.8	2	1.33
Thailand	68.18	-9.9	28	-28.8	28	4.53
United States	333.81	1.4	18	10.6	6	1.62

COMPOSITE INDICES					
Europe	257.47	3.5	7.4	2.66	237.66
Pacific Basin	143.62	4.4	-3.4	1.31	109.71
Europe/Pacific	191.10	3.9	2.5	2.06	158.01
World	238.66	2.6	6.4	1.95	212.78

CURRENCIES				
Exchange rate	Friday	Last Friday	Week % Chg.	Year Ago
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar	120.35	126.57	-4.91	105.56
German marks to the U.S. dollar	1.6869	1.7293	-2.45	1.5295
Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar	1.3923	1.3815	+0.78	1.3705
U.S. dollars to the British pound	1.6205	1.6210	-0.03	1.5202

May 5-9: The Dow Rises Modestly, as Wall Street Puzzles Over the Fed's Next Move

PRICES		DOMESTIC BONDS		AROUND THE WORLD		YIELDS		OTHER INVESTMENTS	
Dow Jones Industrial Average	Up 1.45%	Treasuries	Up 0.24%	European stocks	Up 3.52%	Long bonds	6.89%	Money market funds	4.96%
S&P 500 index	824.78	Ryan Labs. Total Return	195.84	F.T.-Actuaries Europe	257.47	30-year Treasuries	Up 1 basis pt.	Taxable average	Unchanged
Blue chips	Up 1.39%	Municipals	Up 0.49%	Asian stocks	Up 4.40%	Notes	6.22%	Bank C.D.'s	5.22%
Dow 30 Industrials	7,169.53	Bond Buyer index	115.97	F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin	143.62	2-year Treasuries	Unchanged	1-year small savers	Up 1 basis pt.
Small capitalization	Up 2.10%	Corporates	Up 0.20%	Gold	Up 2.25%	Municipals	5.83%	Stocks	1.86%
Russell 2000 index	361.42	Merrill Lynch Master index	858.61	New York cash price	\$349.30	Bond Buyer index	Down 4 basis pts.	S&P 500 dividend yield	Down 2 b.p.

The New York Times

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Investigate the Republicans, Too

After months of claiming that only the Democrats have taken illegal foreign campaign money, the Republican Party has discovered that it has been guilty of the same thing. The \$122,000 now being returned by the Republicans to a Hong Kong company is not nearly as big as the \$3 million the Democrats have returned to sources overseas.

The amount of illegal money in question may, for one thing, be far larger than the Republican Party now says. Time magazine, which first disclosed the Hong Kong connection, has reported that a businessman named Ambrose Tung Young did more than make the \$122,000 in direct contributions. The magazine said he also put up the collateral that enabled a Republican think tank known as the National Policy Forum to secure a \$2.2 million bank loan.

Senate investigators should also pursue whether there was any kind of quid pro quo for these loans and contributions. The National Policy Forum was set up in 1993 by Haley Barbour, then Republican Party chairman, to generate policies for the party. Mr. Barbour's office has confirmed that he introduced Mr. Young to Senator Bob Dole and House Speaker Newt Gingrich, and that he brought Mr. Young along to a meeting with the Chinese Foreign Minister last year.

Mr. Barbour says that putting up collateral for

the \$2.2 million in loans was legal, since the money came not from Mr. Young, but from a Florida-based subsidiary owned by Mr. Young's sons, who are American citizens. But this subsidiary has negligible activities in the United States, and a former Republican official has been quoted by The Boston Globe as saying that the \$2.2 million "was Hong Kong corporate money."

Mr. Barbour asserts that it would have been acceptable for the National Policy Forum to have received foreign loans or contributions, since it was an entity independent of the Republican Party. That assertion is itself the best argument for an aggressive inquiry by those in Congress interested in campaign fund-raising abuses.

Senator Fred Thompson and the Government Affairs Committee have established a somewhat cooperative working relationship with committee Democrats. Mr. Thompson, a Tennessee Republican, agreed to subpoena what he feels are the relevant records from Young Brothers in Florida and Hong Kong.

America's Role in Hong Kong

The coming transfer of Hong Kong from Britain to China is a case study in the limits of American power. Customary levers of diplomacy and military pressure are ill suited to defending Hong Kong's freedoms, and the most severe economic penalty — revoking all Chinese trade privileges — seems mismatched to the problems ahead.

Hong Kong is an intricate and inherited problem. Britain has long encouraged free markets, an unfettered press and rule of law in Hong Kong, but only in recent years has it permitted steps toward democratic governance, including a freely elected legislature.

Unfortunately, the political climate in China today is more repressive than in 1984, when terms were set for the return of Hong Kong this July 1, and London's agreements with Beijing offer little real protection for Hong Kong's 6.5 million citizens.

The Hong Kong transfer is part of the larger issue of China's emergence as a great power, perhaps the most difficult international challenge of the day. China is neither America's ally nor enemy, and a cold war policy of confrontation and containment does not fit.

Hong Kong is soon to be the prime testing ground of Chinese tolerance and intentions. But the political and economic complexities of Hong Kong make it a hard place to get unambiguous results.

Shut Out of Excellence

New Yorkers have heard a great deal from both Schools Chancellor Rudy Crew and State Education Commissioner Richard Mills about the need to strengthen course requirements — and how teachers, principals and superintendents should be evaluated on their students' performance.

The most alarming fact to emerge is that more than half of the students at Stryvesant and Bronx Science come from either private and parochial schools or just three school districts that have less than 10 percent of the public middle-school population.

Many of Hong Kong's successful businessmen seem quite content to see democracy attenuated as long as China does not threaten their freewheeling financial markets. Local media, especially the Chinese-language press, have already muted criticism of China without being asked.

The United States and other democratic nations must be unequivocal in telling China that the destruction of Hong Kong liberties and the rule of law will gravely damage China's standing in the world.

Washington should let Beijing know that Chinese tyranny in Hong Kong will result in the suspension of developing exchanges between the Pentagon and the Chinese military. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright can quietly suggest that a planned exchange of presidential visits will be jeopardized if Hong Kong is trampled.

The elimination of trade privileges for China, due for a Congressional vote in June, is an extreme approach. It would severely damage Hong Kong and punish low-income Americans who buy inexpensive consumer goods made in China.

More selective trade sanctions would be appropriate, especially if other industrialized nations cooperated. China could find alternative markets for many goods if American tariffs were increased.

American silence or neglect on Hong Kong would be unconscionable. But as the countdown to China's takeover proceeds, Washington will have to be not only determined but creative in its defense of Hong Kong's freedoms.

Minority students are failing the entry tests for the elite schools — if indeed they take them at all — because their middle schools are offering too few of the advanced classes that prepare students for the tests.

The Board of Education has created a special program to help minority students recover from poor middle-school educations and pass the specialized entry tests.

Trust Women to Make Choice About Abortion

To the Editor: Your front-page article "States Outlaw Late Abortions as a Federal Ban Faces a Veto" (May 5) contends that the debate over late-term abortion has caused abortion-rights supporters in Congress to "switch sides."

I had been in labor for 13 hours when a complication developed that my doctor could not have anticipated. In order to protect my health, he had to cut the umbilical cord before the baby was completely delivered.

and gave birth to a boy by.) Under the vague language of the Federal and state laws, the procedure performed to protect my health and future fertility would be outlawed.

Last year I did something I never could have imagined doing until I faced the most difficult decision of my life — I testified before Congress against the late-term abortion ban and urged lawmakers to preserve a woman's right to choose.

Whether the debate takes place on Capitol Hill or in statehouses, I hope lawmakers ultimately will trust women and their doctors to make medically appropriate choices in very personal and difficult circumstances.

Computers vs. Humans: Clashing Symbols

To the Editor: Regarding John Horgan's Op-Ed piece about the disappointment of artificial intelligence ("Smarter Than Us? Who's Us?" May 4), it is clear to me that the researcher Marvin Minsky has based his work on a flawed premise: that since the human mind reasons with symbols, and a computer also reasons with symbols, then the computer can replicate the processes of the human mind.



Russia's Too Strapped To Withhold Its Oil

To the Editor: Caspar Weinberger's Op-Ed piece about Russia's bid for domination over energy resources in the Caspian Sea region ("Russia's Oil Grab," May 9) are pushing the art of alarmist exaggerations that the cold war. They ignore several facts: First, there is nothing new about Russian control of Caspian oil.

Second, contrary to Messrs. Weinberger and Schweizer, Moscow is not pushing Azerbaijan to join the Commonwealth of Independent States. Azerbaijan has been a member since the C.I.S. was founded in 1991.

If Russian designs on Caspian oil really are sinister, the logical policy is to improve Western relations with Iran and build a pipeline from Azerbaijan to the Persian Gulf. This is the opposite of current American policy.

It is true that humans use symbols to reason, but we are trained to do so, making symbols out of images. Fundamentally, the human mind is a processor of images which it combines with other information.

Until we have a computer design that is primarily an image processor, it will continue to lag far behind the human mind in all aspects of what we call thinking.

To the Editor: Frederick Friedel, who advises Garry Kasparov, stated (news article, May 4) that the computer Deep Blue will eventually triumph in chess.

Don't Penalize the Poor for Their Poverty

To the Editor: Regarding your report on May 6 of a bill that would require the 450,000 Americans who receive Federal housing subsidies to perform eight hours of community service a month: If the purpose is to establish a public good (service) for the private good (subsidy), ought we not demand that those many millions of us who benefit from the mortgage

interest deduction — for all practical purposes a subsidy, one worth roughly four times the public housing subsidy — do odd jobs too? Since no one is prepared to equate the two, are we not justified in concluding that the purpose of the bill is either (a) punitive, intended to penalize poor people for their poverty, or (b) educational, intended to show poor people that only rich people merit a free lunch?

Defining Mental Illness

To the Editor: In his May 7 letter on workplace accommodations for employees who have a mental illness, Steve Feinberg laments that any unproductive behavior is now a "protected activity."

He is wrong. Under Equal Employment Opportunity Commission guidelines, behavioral deficits that are "the product of a mental illness" are to be accommodated. Psychiatry is not a perfect craft, but it can distinguish behavior that is impelled by a clear mental illness from behavior that is otherwise motivated.

To the Editor: You describe the rise in homelessness that has resulted from the changes in Milwaukee's welfare laws ("Cutting Welfare Rolls but Raising Questions," front page, May 7). You then characterize this situation as an "absence of obvious calamity."

Barring Russia From NATO Would Be Mistake

To the Editor: William Safire (column, May 7) argues that the real reason for NATO expansion is to protect the nations of Eastern Europe from Russia, which "with its resources and educated population, will rise again" and "will threaten again."

Russia in 1987 presents no threat to anyone. Mr. Safire quotes President Vytautas Landsbergis of Lithuania in emotional, historical references to aggressive rulers of Russia's past, yet such ancient history is irrelevant to today's political realities.

Russia has removed its troops from Eastern and Central Europe. It participates in peacekeeping operations in the former Yugoslavia. A painful economic and political transition is going relatively smoothly.

To the Editor: Robert Reichauer suggests in "What Medicare Reform?" (Op-Ed, May 8) that Medicare patients be given a choice between inexpensive plans with limited choice and "expensive coverage" with "additional premiums."

Managed-care plans regularly advertise "no deductibles, no co-pay, free pharmacy."

Most Medicare patients, especially the sick ones, are rejecting these blandishments because they also know this means limited choice of physicians, limited care options and a limited drug formulary.

The writer, deputy director of the Moscow Research Center for Human Rights, is a visiting scholar at the University of Washington.

Prep Schools for Prison

To the Editor: Re "Deletion of Welfare Bill Opens Foster Care to Big Business" (front page, May 4): These for-profit foster care institutions will likely be the prep schools to for-profit prisons.

Managed-Care Limits

To the Editor: Robert Reichauer suggests in "What Medicare Reform?" (Op-Ed, May 8) that Medicare patients be given a choice between inexpensive plans with limited choice and "expensive coverage" with "additional premiums."

Managed-care plans regularly advertise "no deductibles, no co-pay, free pharmacy."

Younger employees frequently get no choice about their "managed" care, but Medicare patients know better.

A Welcome 'Intrusion'

To the Editor: Your May 9 report on the loss of a \$5 billion Federal budget allocation for school repairs cites Republicans' opposition to Federal expansion into an area "that has always been a local concern."

Hello? As a senior citizen, I still remember attending one of the thousands of America's public schools built with Federal money under the W.P.A. program of the 1930's. Have the young whippersnappers who seem to be leading the G.O.P. these days conveniently forgotten how local school districts were created and profited from this government "intrusion," or did they all go to private schools?

The New York Times Company logo and address: 229 West 43rd St., N.Y. 10036-5669. Lists names of executives including Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, Russell T. Lewis, Diane P. Baker, etc.

NO TELEPHONE SUBMISSIONS

Handwritten Arabic text: كتاب من الأصول

Journal FRANK RICH 'Partial Birth' Baloney

As the Senate assumes its fetal positions this week for yet another bout of posturing about "partial-birth" abortion, here's the only fact pro-choice and pro-life partisans alike can bank on: Almost every "fact" spouted by either side will be a sham.

Last week, for instance, Tom Daschle, the Senate's pro-choice Democratic leader, earned cries of "sham" from the pro-life troops when he proposed a new "compromise" that would ban all abortions after a fetus is viable, with some exceptions for a woman's health. The critics have a point. Under Roe v. Wade, any state can already enact its own post-viability ban — as 41 states have.

Our Congressmen, pro-life and pro-choice alike, could save a lot of time if they just cut to the chase and voted on the only real issue at stake in the entire "partial-birth" sham: Who is in favor of rolling back Roe v. Wade and who is not?



Mothers Who Get By

By Frank McCourt

Denise stopped me last year near the New York Board of Education building in Brooklyn. She told me she was now certified as an elementary school teacher and reminded me that she had been in my class at New York Technical College in the spring of 1990.

Remember her? I could never forget her or that morning class. Along with Denise, there were 23 women, almost all mothers, most of them from "the islands." Denise herself came from Antigua.

The women had no patience with him. They told him that if he had stayed home and done his schoolwork he wouldn't be getting into trouble. No kid of theirs would come home with a story like that; they'd break his head. Ray was quiet. You don't talk back to 23 women from the islands.

books and filed out, apprehensive, still unsure of themselves, of each other and of me. When we met again, the mood was the same except that one woman sat with her head on the desk, sobbing. I asked what was the matter. She raised her head, tears on her cheeks. "I lost my books."

"Oh well," I said. "You'll get another set of books. Just go to the English department and tell them what happened."

"You mean I won't get thrown out of college?" "No." She smiled; we all smiled. Now we could begin. I asked for their compositions and told them I'd read some aloud.

The essays were stiff, self-conscious. As I read, I wrote some common misspelled words on the chalkboard, suggested changes in structure, pointed out grammatical errors. I urged them to write simply and clearly. It was all dry and tedious until I told the women that for their next assignment they could write on anything they liked. They look stunned.

They had nothing to write about, nothing but the tensions in their lives, the riots that erupted around them during that time, the husbands who disappeared forever, the children they struggled to raise, their daily grind of housework, jobs, school. They loved the strange ways of words. One night, during a discussion on juvenile delinquency, Mrs. Williams sang out, "No kid of mine is going to be a yoot."

learn so much and everything." She coughed again but there were no more letters. "And we got you this little something hoping you'll like it and..."

She sat down, sobbing. My God, I thought, this class begins and ends in tears. The gift was passed up, a bottle of shaving lotion, which, when I sniffed it, nearly knocked me over. But I sniffed again with gusto and told the ladies I'd keep the bottle forever in memory of them.

The women in 1990 thought this was a wonderful story, too. They said the women from 1968 were real heroes because of the way they survived riots and assassinations.

No, they still couldn't see themselves as heroes. Even Denise, looking back from that Brooklyn street last year, said she couldn't have done anything without her mother, and though she wasn't too sure anymore about Jesus and Jane Fonda, that's what the hero was her mother. "I had a half million dollars," she said, "and I lost it."

Essay WILLIAM SAFIRE Clintonian Contempts

WASHINGTON Consider a quartet of contemptuous acts. 1. Contempt toward the Senate. Remember, back in the 80's, when C.I.A. Director William Casey narrowly co-opted a Senate committee's question, and thus was able to conceal a covert operation from lawful oversight? After that artful dodge, neither senators nor the press trusted him again.

Janet Reno went Casey one better in testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Asked why she refuses to seek court appointment of independent counsel in the campaign finance scandal, President Clinton's Attorney General assured the senators that the "career professionals" in the Justice Department advised her against it.

When reporters asked about direct opposition by the F.B.I. chief, Reno remained in denial: "I'm not sure you would characterize it as a difference of opinion." One says yes; the other says no; whom is she kidding?

2. Contempt for the public's intelligence. Watch for weasel words ebbing in -ly. President Clinton said he had not based foreign policy decisions "solely" on campaign contributions — as if even partial influence were not evidence of bribery.

3. Contempt of the House. Only when White House Counsel Jack Quinn last year was faced with a contempt of Congress charge did he release thousands of pages of long-concealed documents.

4. Contempt of underlings. After turning over some of the notes taken by Government lawyers of meetings with subordinates, as required by law in criminal cases, the Clintons secretly "drew the line" at doing the same with Hillary, all the while publicly pretending to cooperate. Suddenly a new principle of privilege was discovered not available to anyone else in the White House.

Upon what meat doth Caesar's wife feed that she is grown so great? Does the lawyerly Mrs. Clinton seriously assert she enjoys a privilege in law denied to Margaret Williams, her loyal chief of staff? Does she hold the Supreme Court in contempt, too?

flowed into his pocket, as he stopped cooperating with the prosecution. You are being asked to believe that all during that time neither Mr. Kendall nor Mr. Blair mentioned Hubbell's criminal vulnerability to the Clintons — even as those aides were getting the crook to resign.

How does the White House handle exposure of this tissue of lies about what the President knew and when he knew it? The fallback fudge is that neither Clinton was fully apprised of what Kendall and Blair had learned. That clanks false. It's more reason-

Freeh at last; F.B.I. vs. Reno.

able to assume the Clintons were warned time and again of their closest associate's deep trouble, and of the need to steer him heavy fees to keep him inside the tent. The deed was done; the money passed; staring at us are signs of a criminal conspiracy to tamper with a witness by officials at the top.

The subject is women, not fetuses.

EVERYTHING THAT MEETS THE EYE FROM A-Z The Hebrew-English Visual Dictionary is an invaluable reference source containing thousands of carefully chosen illustrations and clearly identified terminology. Look up the word from a picture or find the picture from the word. Introductions and indices in Hebrew and English. Published by Carta, 1996. Hardcover, over 750 pp. JP Price NIS 105, plus NIS 10 for mailing in Israel

All You Should Know About Jerusalem In Whose Jerusalem Elyahu Tibi boldly tackles the controversial issue of Jerusalem and presents the many facets of its history, religion, demography, archeology, AI in all, an extensive 330-page source book with a compendium of 285 quotations and a chronology of 375 dates. Hardcover, richly illustrated deluxe edition. "A veritable treasure-trove of facts and figures including some untold stories. No book like this on the market." Teddy Kolek. "Jerusalem explored and expounded from almost every possible angle." Mayor Ehud Olmert. "A must read for every Christian." Sister Dr. Ross Tharing. JP Price NIS 99.00 plus delivery costs

THE ARTS

No Way to Treat a 'Lady': Pilfering Literature for Movies

By JESSE GREEN

IN A beautiful glade, a dozen young women in jeans and tank tops and diaphanous tunics recline on the grass, smiling enigmatically at one another and at the camera. Soon, some start dancing to the gentle tootling of recorder music. Nearby, one Pre-Raphaelite beauty stretches out catlike on the branch of a sturdy tree as a friend lovingly braids her lustrous hair. Meanwhile, on the soundtrack, we hear disembodied voices speaking frankly of the pleasures and pitfalls of an intimate romantic encounter.

Now take this test: Are we watching (a) a commercial for a feminine-hygiene product, (b) an episode of the all-new "Ellen" or (c) the first scene of a recent film based on a great 19th-century novel?

If you guessed (c) you must have cheated; you've already seen Jane Campion's adaptation of Henry James's "Portrait of a Lady," released on video last week. But calling this Nicole Kidman vehicle an adaptation is like saying that Hitler adapted Poland; what Ms. Campion has done in her "Portrait" is to steal parts of James's plot, make the fascinating Isabel Archer a weepy bore, substitute a blurry, inconsequential vision for the original's shocking clarity — all this and call it homage.

"The Portrait of a Lady" is but one of several recent adaptations — a new version of "Anna Karenina" and the television movie of Louisa May Alcott's "Inheritance" — in which 19th-century women are improperly exposed in the ironic light of 20th-century values. A serious film maker like Ms. Campion is using that disjuncture, however ineptly, to demonstrate the ways in which feminism has and has not altered society in the meantime. But it's easy to understand why less gifted film makers find these stories attractive, too: they have plots that make sense, a built-in audience and roles that look wonderfully juicy, at least on the page.

Unfortunately these attractions also tend to be traps, because the plots are too complicated to be dealt with in 100 minutes and thus get simmered down to a series of syrupy highlights. The built-in audience, too, causes problems, because readers very quickly resent the thumb print of someone else's perusal in what they have come to believe is their very own classic. And though movement coaches can teach Ms. Kidman how to walk while wearing a bustle, most of the contemporary actresses on whom these projects depend do not seem prepared by their years in the gym to understand the less literal constraints of that unemancipated century.

And other centuries are no safer. Films perpetrated upon "Jane Eyre" (1996), "Ethan Frome" (1993) and, most horribly, "The Scarlet Letter" (1995) also find plot-poor directors greedily eyeing old bookshelves, invading other people's lush countryside and pilfering the chandeliers.

NOT that the act of filming a classic novel is prima facie evidence of a crime. James Ivory and Ismail Merchant have built an entire industry on thrifty, inoffensive literary borrowings that are always, it somehow seems, returned immediately after use. Similarly, we should not cry too much for Victor Hugo that Disney has made of his gruesome hunchback a highly profitable, pettable gnome; other classics (Jane Austen's "Emma," which was turned into "Clueless" in 1995, comes to mind) have undergone much more radical surgery and survived to tell the tale.

What is finally inexcusable about "The Portrait of a Lady" is not that the material is stolen — what isn't?



Nicole Kidman and John Malkovich in "The Portrait of a Lady" — Several recent roovie adaptations prove that you can roake a sow's ear out of a silk purse.

— nor even that it is so grossly altered by the imposition of a new esthetic. What is inexcusable is that the film is awful even on its own diminished terms. You can, it turns out, make a sow's ear out of a silk purse.

Of course, "The Portrait of a Lady" is ravishing to the eye; such movies usually are. Ms. Kidman in her spectacularly narrow-waisted

Some directors trash classics simply because 'Melrose Place' is on hiatus and there are a few weeks to kill.

gowns resembles not so much an hourglass as a chalice — a chalice constantly overflowing with tears. Even the fantasy of being fondled by her three spurned suitors (and how Jamesian is that?) falls to raise a smile on her face; by the time John Malkovich locks his tiresome leer on her, you want to give the poor girl a shotgun. What has happened to James's brisk and unconventional huntress?

Is there something punitive in the way contemporary film makers reach back to pre-feminist texts in order to tell stories that feature such elaborately victimized women? Take the awkwardly titled "Leo Tolstoy's Anna Karenina," a case of false advertising if ever there was one. When the title character (played by the exceptionally French Sophie Marceau) flouts society's double standard, she is, like Isabel Archer, undone by the consequences. Also like Isabel, she wears 10-ton gowns, heaves her bosom prettily and can barely get her lips around the stilted Victorian locutions.

But at least in "Portrait" it was clear that Ms. Campion felt something for her heroine, even if what she felt had nothing to do with James. Bernard Rose, who wrote and directed this version of "Anna Karenina," seems largely to have

been scavenging, like a hermit crab, for a convenient story in which to stage a drop-dead photo op. He got it: filmed on hitherto off-limits locations in Moscow and St. Petersburg, this Russian soap opera is as gloriously over the top as a Faberge egg, but unfortunately as hollow and mechanical too. All the gilded ballrooms and Tchaikovsky excerpts in the world can't give this poor little Anna a heart. When she throws herself under the train, you can't help thinking it's just as well.

What beunumbs a legend most? The subordination of content to décor suggests that we are watching here a form of ritual parricide; perhaps the movie should have been called "Bernard Rose's Leo Tolstoy's Anna Karenina." Certainly it would require a good deal of egotistical swagger to take on a text of such immense interior and exterior proportions — a text that had been poorly adapted at least three times already, in versions starring Greta Garbo (1935), Vivien Leigh (1948) and Jacqueline Bisset (1985). Nothing wrong with swagger, of course, but Mr. Rose has a rap sheet on this sort of thing. In his 1995 film "Immortal Beloved" he not only fabricated a life of Beethoven but saturated the soundtrack with his glorious music — an act of hubris akin to stealing Gandhi's dhoti and calling oneself a saint.

Why would a director specifically choose as his source a virtually untranslatable classic? Why would he attempt to honor a powerful text by squeezing it into a format that all but enforces its desecration? Perhaps because he wants to desecrate it. In his book "The Anxiety of Influence," the literary critic Harold Bloom posits an Oedipal theory of belatedness in which younger poets, feeling that the time of greatness has long since eoded, attempt to claim the mantle of the masters by ripping it off their corpses. The new poets who will emerge as great are the ones who succeed in this ugly chore.

If Mr. Bloom were a moviegoer, he might have added that the rest would seem either like dilettantes or vultures. In "Leo Tolstoy's Anna Karenina" and "The Portrait of a Lady" we seem to have one of each. "God forgive me everything" are Anna's last words; they should be Mr. Rose's, too.

Of course, not all movie makers who trash classic novels do so out of a fear that the voices of Tolstoy and James will smother their own and so

must be stilled. Some movie makers trash classic novels simply because "Melrose Place" is on hiatus, leaving them with a few weeks to kill. Take the recent television broadcast of "Louisa May Alcott's The Inheritance," a Kraft Premier Movie presentation that should at least win an Emmy for most complicated punctuation. Luckily, since Alcott's first novel has only recently been rediscovered, very few people have had time to develop those annoying pre-conceptions based on actual reading that interfere with Hollywood's constitutionally guaranteed right to be third-rate. What a find: a virgin classic, ripe for defiling!

To be fair to the people who bring you processed American cheese food, the Alcott story does not rank with the James and Tolstoy novels. Like them, it portrays a smart young woman's struggle to fulfill conventional and unconventional desires in a society that severely restricts both. Unlike them, it is relentlessly senti-

mental, its protagonist's name is Edith, and her most daring defiance of contemporary mores is a refusal to ride sidesaddle in the steeplechase. Indeed, in the major dramatic act of the plot, Edith tries to renounce rather than follow her fate. Naturally enough, she gets her man and her money, and all ends happily.

This is tame stuff — Alcott was only 17 when she wrote it — and so you might expect it to make a charming fairy tale on film. Alas, all it makes is processed American cheese food. This is the kind of movie in which slow motion signifies romance and danger, in which Meredith Baxter (as a New England matriarch) drinks tea and busies herself with the sealing wax. What with all the haughty glances and wooden poses, I began to wonder if Joan Collins was the dramaturg.

Lame stunts, a preposterous variety of sitcom accents, choppy editing and amateur lighting — why is that, girl's elbow glowing so furiously? —

almost propel "The Inheritance" into second-class disaster status. Were it not for a single sweet performance, by Cari Shayne as Edith, it might almost have become a classic in its own right. Instead we have the first solid argument in favor of illiteracy: what movie makers can't read they can't destroy.

And yet the process that leads to the desecration of classics is not perceptibly different from the process that leads to classics in the first place, so you can't reasonably attempt to forbid the rash fools from trying. You can, however, prohibit Meredith Baxter from saying things like "My dear, you've outdone yourself again this year!" You can offer matching grants to encourage Jane Campion to return to musical-instrument-themed movies — something like "The Oboe," say.

Failing that, it seems inevitable that the most passionate novels will become the coldest, most inarticulate films.

INFESTED!

By NANCY NICHOLSON JOLINE / Edited by WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SHAPBEAN SHAD HADAFIT
LEWAOLIN LUXE OPALINE
OBOURAYE ARISTOPHANES
ANALESS ONTOPOF LISZT
FOOT OLOSOWKEY
PAY NIBBLE TYRES ASE
SREO CLAIRROL OSLO REX
SORE SJOESLIP POPEYE
TYREA ASOVE TEAOR
TIPALIA AVERAGE ISNT
SSE TRVEST LESAGE OOS
LEPA CLOTHES EDGEIN
A FUS UNDER KHAVE
MORAYS SNOWPEAS YBAR
ERE HEAR BOLLAGE OLT
OES GANTY KASALS EWS
RYOTIRNY LEVO
ONITS BEMEATH OTEOLO
OANTELORETEGA PROTAUOE
EXALTEO EBEL WFFEEALE
AJINTWAY DELL DEFEATEO



Sophie Marceau in "Leo Tolstoy's Anna Karenina" — A case of false advertising if ever there was one.

طوبى من لا يصدق

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table listing Israeli shares in New York with columns for share name, last price, and change. Includes AMEX and NASDAQ sections.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table listing international shares with columns for share name, last price, and change.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

Table listing world market indices and share prices with columns for index name, last price, and change.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table listing New York market indices with columns for index name, last price, and change.

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

Table listing other market indices with columns for index name, last price, and change.

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

Table listing dollar crossrates with columns for currency, last price, and change.

US COMMODITIES

Table listing US commodities with columns for commodity name, last price, and change.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table listing London commodities with columns for commodity name, last price, and change.

LABOR

Edri, Yona Yahav, Dalia Itzik, Yael Dayan and Rafi Eilat. The latter three are supporting Barak in the primary.

CABINET

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EURO STOCKS HIT HIGHS AS WALL STREET RALLIES

LONDON (Reuters) - A Wall Street rally pushed European markets blue yesterday, with Paris blue chips jumping more than two percent while London and Frankfurt hit record closing highs.

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - The Dow Jones industrial average plowed toward 7,300 yesterday as investors, cautiously optimistic about the outlook for inflation and interest rates, focused on the biggest and best-known stocks.

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PAGE INVESTMENTS

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LABOR

In conversations with his supporters during yesterday's consultations, Peres again warned that Barak is seeking to take Labor "on a dangerous path away from the democratic process and into an atmosphere of intimidation and one-man rule or the rule of a closed clique."

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EURO STOCKS HIT HIGHS AS WALL STREET RALLIES

LONDON (Reuters) - A Wall Street rally pushed European markets blue yesterday, with Paris blue chips jumping more than two percent while London and Frankfurt hit record closing highs.

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - The Dow Jones industrial average plowed toward 7,300 yesterday as investors, cautiously optimistic about the outlook for inflation and interest rates, focused on the biggest and best-known stocks.

WHERE TO GO

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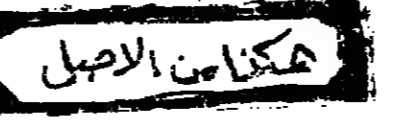
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Bible Quiz winners

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu congratulates Orit Bernard, 17, of Beersheba, and Aviv Portal, 17, of Netivot, who won the International Bible Quiz for Jewish Youth yesterday.

Wiesel's refusal to join fund may delay payouts

BERN, Switzerland (AP) — Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel's refusal to take a leading position on a board of a Holocaust compensation fund will likely delay payouts to needy victims, the fund's head said Saturday.

Rolf Bloch, a respected Swiss Jewish leader, said he had tried in vain to convince Wiesel to accept the post of international chairman.

Wiesel informed the Swiss government late Friday that he did not want the position because he did not feel qualified to take part in deciding which victims should receive how much money.

Bloch said he had hoped that payments from the fund — which contains 165 million Swiss francs (\$112 million) donated by Swiss banks and businesses — would begin in the summer. This will now be put back somewhat, he told The Associated Press.

Following an international outcry over Swiss banks' dealings with the Nazis, the fund was established earlier this year to try to help elderly and destitute peo-

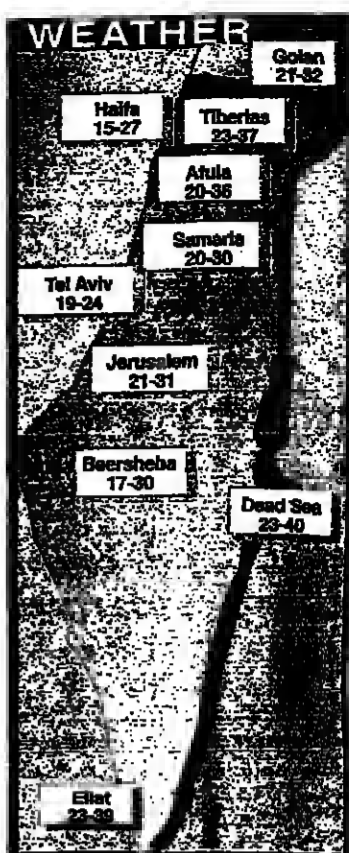
ple whose families lost assets to the Nazis.

Jewish groups maintain Swiss banks may hold assets and interest from Holocaust victims totaling up to \$7 billion. The banks have so far managed to trace only a tiny fraction of this.

Wiesel's decision to pull out deprives the board of its most powerful moral force and was seen as an embarrassment to the Swiss government, which said it deeply regretted the move.

It will also likely embarrass the World Jewish Restitution Organization, which had held out for Wiesel to be given a senior position in the fund.

Wiesel won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986 for chronicling the Nazi genocide. He was freed at 16 from Buchenwald, where his father died.



AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	
Amsterdam	10	15	partly cloudy
Berlin	10	22	partly cloudy
Buenos Aires	18	26	clear
Cairo	16	34	clear
Chicago	08	22	cloudy
Frankfurt	11	17	partly cloudy
Geneva	13	19	rain
Hamburg	08	13	partly cloudy
London	09	18	clear
Los Angeles	15	25	partly cloudy
Madrid	09	18	partly cloudy
Moscow	09	21	partly cloudy
New York	05	28	clear
Paris	09	16	clear
Rome	11	20	partly cloudy
Stockholm	09	16	clear
Tokyo	17	25	cloudy
Turkey	12	26	rain
Zurich	11	17	rain

S. Africa nabs 2 Israeli women for smuggling

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) — Two Israeli women were charged in a South African court yesterday for trying to smuggle uncut diamonds out of the country, using

condoms concealed in their private parts, police said. The diamonds were worth 3.5 million rand (\$784,753). "The two women were found in

possession of five condoms containing diamonds. The condoms had been concealed in the women's private parts," police spokesman Captain Sipho

Ngubane said in a statement. He said the two women were arrested on Saturday at Johannesburg International Airport.

BIS confirms Nazi gold deals, opens archives

ZURICH (Reuters) — The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) yesterday released a detailed account of its Nazi gold transactions and pledged to open its secretive wartime archives to the public from July.

The BIS board of directors, made up of central bank governors from the Group of Ten (G10) industrialized countries, also decided to make available all documents older than 30 years, from next January.

The report, which was audited by Coopers & Lybrand, confirmed earlier BIS statements that Hitler's Reichsbank transferred 13.5 tons of gold to BIS between 1939 and 1945.

A final shipment of 1.5 tons in April 1945 never reached Switzerland because it was stopped at the German-Swiss border.

After World War II, BIS handed back 3.7 tons of the gold to the Allied powers after it was identified as looted by Germany from the central banks of Belgium, Italy and the Netherlands.

BIS general manager Andrew Crockett told a news conference the report gives a detailed "bar by bar" account of its Nazi gold dealings.

Crockett said the report did not delve into the issue of whether dealing with Nazi Germany was morally justified.

"It is fair to say our original focus has been to establish facts rather than to try to guess the motivations and opinions [of wartime BIS management]," Crockett said. "The facts are there and I prefer to let others judge whether the behavior of BIS was appropriate during the war."

Mother gives liver lobe to save son

By JUDY SIEGEL

Amal Fallah, a Beduin mother of six living near Nazareth, yesterday donated a lobe of her liver to save the life of her four-and-a-half-year-old son, who had gone into a coma due to complications of hepatitis A.

The boy, Bassal, was hospitalized at Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel in Petah Tikva 10 days ago, but despite efforts to treat his deteriorating liver, it stopped functioning and his condition worsened. When told that transplanting a liver was the only way to save him, both parents volunteered immediately, but the 29-year-old mother was found more suitable.

The dual operation was carried out by Drs. Eitan Mor, Ezra Shaharabani, and Natan Bar-Or at the Rabin Medical Center-Bellinson Campus, adjacent to Schneider. Amal and her husband,

Adnan, who live in the small village of Arab el-Hib, have five other children, including a pair of two-year-old twins.

This was the third transplant of a liver lobe from a live donor since the procedure was approved by the Health Ministry late last year for only the Rabin Center to perform. The hospital is only one of 19 in the whole world to perform such surgery.

All three children who have undergone the procedure are Arahs, and each required the transplant because of complications from hepatitis. After the operation, the boy was returned in stable condition to Schneider's intensive care unit, and Amal to Bellinson, where she regained consciousness.

In a few days, when her condition allows, she will be taken to Schneider to visit her son. Adnan yesterday rushed from one hospital to another to visit them both.

Winning Chance cards

In yesterday's Chance drawings, the lucky cards were the ace of spades, 10 of hearts, king of diamonds and jack of clubs; and the jack of spades, king of hearts, queen of diamonds and queen of clubs.

In Sunday's Chance drawing, the lucky cards were the king of spades, king of hearts, 10 of diamonds and king of clubs.

The Registrar of Realtors Notice to Land Realtors

The list of subjects which will be included in the examination for land realtor licenses, to be held in August 1997, has been approved. (The exact date of the examination has not yet been set.)

The list of subjects will be sent for perusal to the Malden management in Tel Aviv, to the bureau of land realtors in Jerusalem and to the colleges offering courses in real estate.

The date for registering for the examination or, alternately, for submitting a request for exemption from the examination will be announced in a separate notice.

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